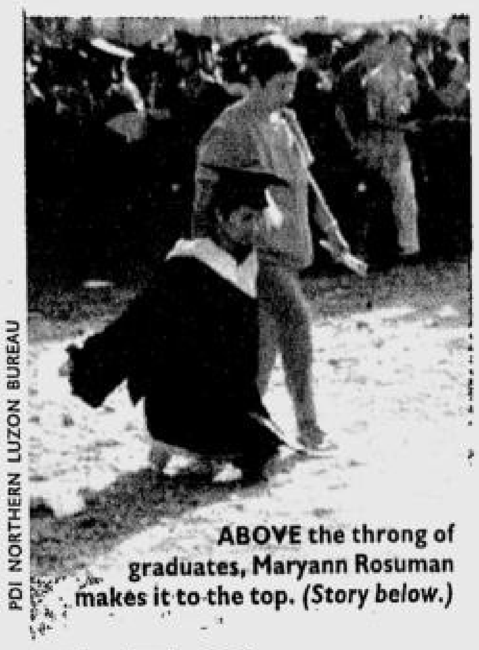
PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

ABOVE the throng of graduates, Maryann Rosuman makes it to the top. *(Story below.)*

N. Koreans await final journey to freedom

STORY ON PAGE A2

e-mail: feedback@inquirer.com.ph

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US wants more troops here

GMA has yet to act on proposal, says Palace

THERE'S more from where they came from though the Palace says that the US proposal for deployment of an increasing number of US troops will involve "civic action personnel," not combat troops.

VAL HANDUMON

THE UNITED States wants to bring in more troops for the controversial Balikatan 02-1 training exercise aimed at wiping out the Abu Sayyaf bandits in Basilan.

But presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao yesterday said the Philippine government had not yet made any "policy decision" on the US proposal.

Tiglao said the proposal called for the deployment of more American "civic action personnel," not combat troops.

Under the Balikatan terms of reference, Manila and Washington have agreed to limit to 660 the number of US troops participating in the six-month exercise.

"The US proposal has yet to be discussed very seriously with President Macapagal-Arroyo and the President has not made a decision on that," Tiglao said.

According to him, the proposal was made "informally by those on the ground in Basilan."

About 160 US Special Forces soldiers have been deployed in Basilan where the Abu Sayyaf bandits are holding captive an American missionary couple and a Filipino nurse.

The US military last week began calling the war games "Operation Enduring Freedom-Philippines," giving credence to claims that the country has become, after Afghanistan, the second front of the US-led global war on terrorism. Both Washington and Manila have denied the claims.

Some nationalists and left-wing groups have also opposed the joint military exercise, saying it violates the constitutional ban on the presence of foreign troops on Philippine soil.

US soldiers are allowed to enter combat zones in Basilan to observe Filipino troops in action as part of the exercise.

But Ms Macapagal has said the US troops, although armed, are prohibited from engaging in combat. They are allowed to fire back though if attacked.

Shortly before Friday midnight, US military helicopters recovered the body of a Filipino soldier and evacuated three wounded soldiers after a clash with the bandits in Basilan.

It was the first known case that US military advisers had played a role, albeit indirect, in the war against the Abu Sayyaf bandits who have been linked to Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida network.

Because the Armed Forces of the Philippines lacks night flight capabilities, soldiers wounded in a firefight at night have often bled to death while waiting to be evacuated in the morning.

Maj. Noel Detoyato, a Philippine military spokesperson, said two US Pave Hawk helicopters flew to the war-torn island of Basilan late Friday after Abu Sayyaf bandits ambushed a Philippine Army patrol, killing one soldier and wounding three.

The Pave Hawks are a version of the popular Army Blackhawks.

The fighting subsided before the helicopters reached the site from their temporary base at the Edwin Andrews Air Base in Zamboanga City.

Detoyato said the clash broke out be-

US/A20

Standing ovation for legless lass who graduates cum laude

By Leoncio Balbin Jr.
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

VIGAN CITY—The diminutive 20-year-old Ilocana received a standing ovation for graduating at the top of her class. But she herself could barely stand.

Maryann Rosuman was born without legs. But on Thursday, she stood a head taller among the 2,643 graduates of the University of Northern Philippines when she graduated cum laude.

A native of Barangay Bayubay in San Vicente, Ilocos Sur, Maryann was cheered by the other graduates as soon as they saw her climb the stage with her mother Feliciana to receive her medal.

She graduated with a degree in Bachelor of Science in Accounting.

Maryann never allowed her disability to get in the way of her quest for academic excellence. She had also graduated valedictorian from elementary and high school.

Some of the parents of the graduates were teary eyed as Maryann, who only stands 3 feet and five inches tall, had much difficulty walking toward university president Lauro Tacbas, who was to award her medal.

Maryann uses a cane to walk or stand. She was often supported by her classmates in going to her classes.

"I am very thankful because my efforts have paid off. Although I have a physical difficulty, my family and classmates have been supporting me all the way. They were very cooperative and understanding," said the soft-spoken Maryann.

She said she was determined to finish her course with honors because her elder brother and sister, both certified public accountants, are her role models.

STANDING/A21

Mikey-Angela wedding: Celebration of RP art, antiquities, design

By Thelma Sioson-San Juan
Contributor

THE WEDDING of the Year will be a design statement for Philippine arts and antiquity. Given the track record of its designer, the wedding will be talked about for years to come.

Doing the wedding of First Son Miguel "Mikey" Arroyo and Angela Montenegro is Dr. Eleuterio "Teyet" Pascual, one of the country's leading and most talked-about arts and antiques collectors known for grandiose, over-the-top and cutting-edge wedding and party designs.

Pascual practically started the tradition of designing weddings in the country.

"It will be a provincial/country wedding combined with Philippine antiquity," said Pascual in an exclusive interview with the INQUIRER before he left for London this week.

Pascual will use antique Philippine silver to decorate the 17th century St. Augustine Church in Lubao, Pampanga, where the morning nuptial rites will be held.

The wedding entourage will be ushered into the church entrance by a life-size silver candelabra from 19th century Philippines.

The long aisle will be lined with a thousand angel porcelain figures manufactured by Koenigliche in Germany, one of the few imported touches in the wedding.

The altar will glow with Philippine silver pieces from the 18th century. Both sides of the church will have 20 candelabras each, set on marble slabs. Pascual said he chose candelabras to echo the design of the crystal chandeliers of the Lubao church. These chandeliers were given as gifts to the Lubao church by Diosdado Macapagal, father of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, when he was President in the '60s.

The principal sponsors will sit on tortoise

MIKEY-ANGELA/A20

TEYET PASCUAL romances design.

TO SYDNEY with unfilled dreams, the Jurados: Cristina and husband Karlos and children Jose Carlos and Lara Katrina

JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

6 millionth migrant to Australia reluctant to go

By Blanche S. Rivera

A HOUSE of their own. A job that pays well. Free schooling for the children and free medical care for the entire family. A safe neighborhood. A trustworthy government.

In short, a future.

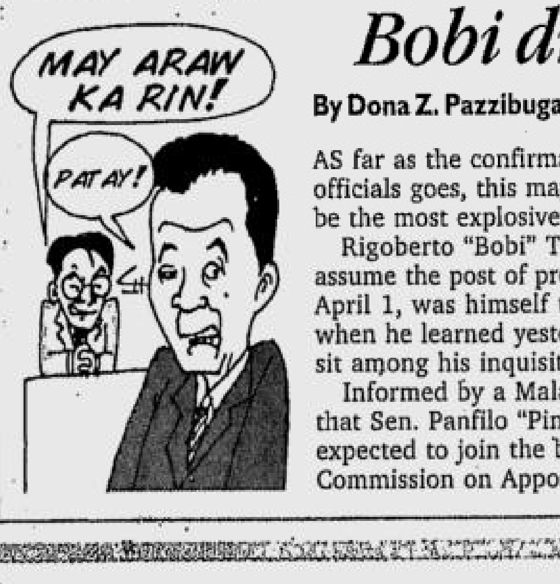
Cristina Jurado, 29, keeps this in mind whenever she starts having second thoughts and getting anxious about her family's relocation to Australia, which, she prays, will be their ticket to a better life.

The Jurados—Cristina and her husband Karlos, 32, and their children Jose Carlos, 6, and Lara Katrina, 3—are done with packing. Almost everything from the car to the carpet in the house they were renting in Project 8 in Quezon City has been sold.

They are scheduled to take the direct flight to Sydney tonight. They will take with them A$10,000, a few remnants of their old household, as well as their unfulfilled dreams.

Cristina has been named the six-millionth migrant to Australia, a country of 19 million people of diverse cultures. As

6 MILLIONTH/A21


MAY ARAW KA RIN!
PATAY!

Bobi dreads Ping's grilling

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

AS far as the confirmation of Cabinet officials goes, this may yet turn out to be the most explosive.

Rigoberto "Bobi" Tiglao, who will assume the post of press secretary on April 1, was himself taken aback when he learned yesterday who might sit among his inquisitors.

Informed by a Malacañang reporter that Sen. Panfilo "Ping" Lacson was expected to join the bicameral Commission on Appointments at Congress' next session, Tiglao mumbled something, then laughed.

Lacson, a member of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos' secret police, and Tiglao, an anti-Marcos activist, have not exactly been on good terms since last year.

The bad blood started when Lacson called Tiglao a "communist," and Tiglao called Lacson a "human rights violator."

Things took a turn for the worse when Tiglao announced late last year

BOBI/A20

Second FRONT PAGE

BAKIT DAW PARANG BINE-BEYBI?

Sandigan getting soft on Erap, says Satur

By Juliet L. Javellana and Volt Contreras

BAYAN Muna Rep. Satur Ocampo yesterday rebuked the Sandiganbayan for what he said was its "deferential attitude" toward jailed ex-President Joseph Estrada during his arraignment last Friday.

"This is a disturbing trend. The court was too soft on Estrada when the (justices) appealed to him to trust them," Ocampo said.

He feared that this attitude could affect the outcome of the cases against Estrada that the court is hearing.

Ocampo noted that some members of the special division appealed to and practically begged Estrada to "trust us" when he should have been reprimanded for his scathing attacks on the judiciary.

A private prosecutor involved in the Estrada trial said he found it "strange and ridiculous" that the Sandiganbayan ended up "pleading" with the deposed president and asking for his trust in last Friday's hearing.

A first

"I bet you that was the first time Sandiganbayan Justice Minita Nazario ever said that to an accused," said Leonard de Vera of the anti-Estrada group E-Just, who is also a spokesperson for the private prosecutors group.

Nazario, the head of the Sandiganbayan special division trying the plunder case, had told Estrada during the arraignment: "On a pile of Bibles, we assure you that this court was not created to convict you."

"It's strange that it was a justice who had to make that pleading—the first time I've heard of such a thing in my years in the legal profession," said De Vera.

De Vera also warned the court that it must find lawyers willing to defend Estrada or the ousted leader would find an "excuse to complain of mistrial" and exploit it.

Three of five private lawyers and all four government lawyers that the court had appointed to defend Estrada after he dismissed his private lawyers have asked to be excused.

'Mr. President'

Ocampo also questioned why Nazario had to call Estrada "Mr. President."

"He is accused of a very serious crime and the court was addressing him 'Mr. President.' He was drawing them into his own game," Ocampo said.

He said that by appealing for Estrada's trust, Nazario had only encouraged Estrada to throw tantrums whenever he feels he was being persecuted.

He said the other members of the special division were also put in a very awkward position when Estrada said in open court that he still had trust in Nazario.

The congressman said Estrada was continuing to play his cards well, using his alleged mass base as leverage to get out of the cases stacked against him.

"Erap is banking on his last hopes that he still has residual support and that he can build it up," Ocampo said.

He said the former president was also playing politics his way.

"He knows that the courts can be influenced and the Executive can intervene," Ocampo said.

De Vera said the court "must exhaust all efforts" to find lawyers willing to serve the court and defend Estrada, noting that Metro Manila alone has about 6,000 practicing trial lawyers.

"Even if the Supreme Court would rule that there was no mistrial, Estrada will tell history, the future generation, that he was tried despite the express reluctance of his lawyers to handle his cases," he said.

De Vera noted that a majority of Estrada's nine de officio counsels initially refused to represent Estrada, citing various reasons apart from Estrada's public rejection of their services.

Among those who asked to be relieved of the job were Rodolfo Jimenez, who said he cannot enter into a "scandalous and anomalous" working relationship with members of the Public Attorneys Office which is under the justice department, the government's prosecution arm.

The four lawyers from PAO themselves initially wanted out, saying Estrada could not qualify as a PAO client because he was not an indigent.

They also thought that their services might not be necessary as Estrada already had private counsels de officio.

Nokors await final journey to freedom

"THEY are a little stressed out because of the experience they are going through. They were all wearing uniform baseball caps with the name Beijing on them," said National Security Adviser Roilo Golez, describing the 25 North Korean defectors who landed in the Philippines from China Friday night.

"They were very quiet (and) they have been taken to an undisclosed but very secure place," said Golez, who added the defectors had been given permission to stay "up to 72 hours at a maximum," up from the few hours they were originally scheduled to stay before flying on to South Korea on Saturday.

The group, composed of six families and two orphaned girls, including children as young as 10, touched down in Manila aboard a China Southern flight from Xiamen, a day after they had dashed into the Spanish Embassy in Beijing past startled Chinese guards to seek asylum.

Reuters, quoting a senior airport immigration official, reported the group had been taken to the intelligence services headquarters at Camp Aguinaldo in Quezon City after their arrival from China and ahead of their departure Monday for South Korea.

The group, the biggest to defect from North Korea since the Korean War, was escorted by military personnel in plainclothes and representatives of South Korea's Manila Embassy, the official, who declined to be identified, said.

China, despite strong links with North Korea and a policy of routinely returning defectors, allowed the group to fly to Manila.

"We're just a transit point for them, we don't have anything to do with them politically. They will stay here for 72 hours before flying to South Korea," Golez said.

The group was given the time to relax and to receive medical attention, Golez added.

The Philippines and Singapore served as third-country conduits in a similar incident last June when a family seeking political asylum walked into a United Nations office in Beijing.

The 25, who said they had escaped from North Korea before only to be forced back by Chinese officials, had threatened suicide if they were sent home again, the Tokyo-based Life Funds for North Korean Refugees said in a statement.

Some of them were reportedly carrying rat poison they would take if they were repatriated.

China's low-key and unusually rapid handling of the incident reflected the diplomatic tightrope it had to walk, according to an Associated Press report.

Sending the men, women and children back to likely punishment in North Korea risked alienating world opinion. China already faces criticism for refusing to grant refugee status to thousands of North Koreans who have streamed into the country in recent years, fleeing repression and famine.

But by calling the asylum-seekers lawbreakers for dashing past Chinese guards and into the embassy compound, and by flying them to the Philippines, not South Korea—their intended destination and the North's capitalist foe—China hoped to avoid overly angering North Korea, its neighbor and longtime ally.

The only Chinese official to comment Friday was Premier Zhu Rongji—and he was brief.

Norman Bordadora, with Reuters, AFP and AP reports

Guingona off to Mexico finance meet

VICE President and Foreign Secretary Teofisto Guingona Jr. leaves today to attend a top-level meeting on financing for development in Monterrey, Mexico.

The United Nations conference, to be held from March 21 to 22, brings together world leaders to address the question of financing development in the wake of the Asian financial crisis and the ensuing turbulence in the global economy.

The vice president heads a delegation that includes Dante Canlas, the director general of the National Economic and Development Authority and Finance Undersecretary Juanita Amatong.

Guingona will be joining a roundtable discussion on "Financing for Development—Looking Ahead" to be chaired by the heads of the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund and the World Trade Organization.

Among the categories of issues to be discussed during the summit are international financial cooperation for development, official development assistance and debt relief, enhancing financial and trading systems in support of development and avoidance of international financial crisis.

Guingona said the summit would be issuing a Monterrey Consensus at the end of the two-day discussions.

The document would address, among others, the issues of mobilizing international and domestic resources for development, international trade as an engine for development, increasing global financial and technical cooperation and external debt.

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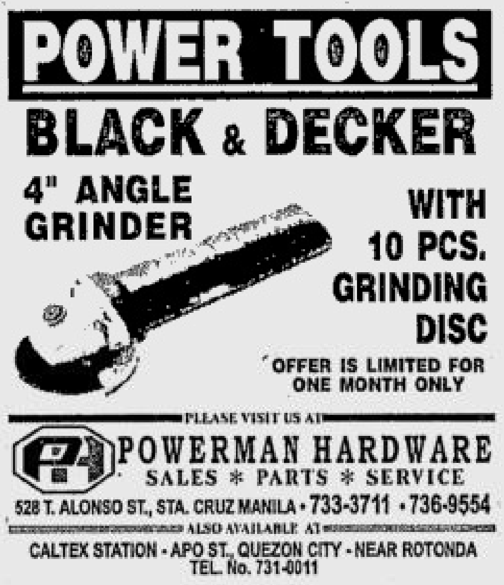
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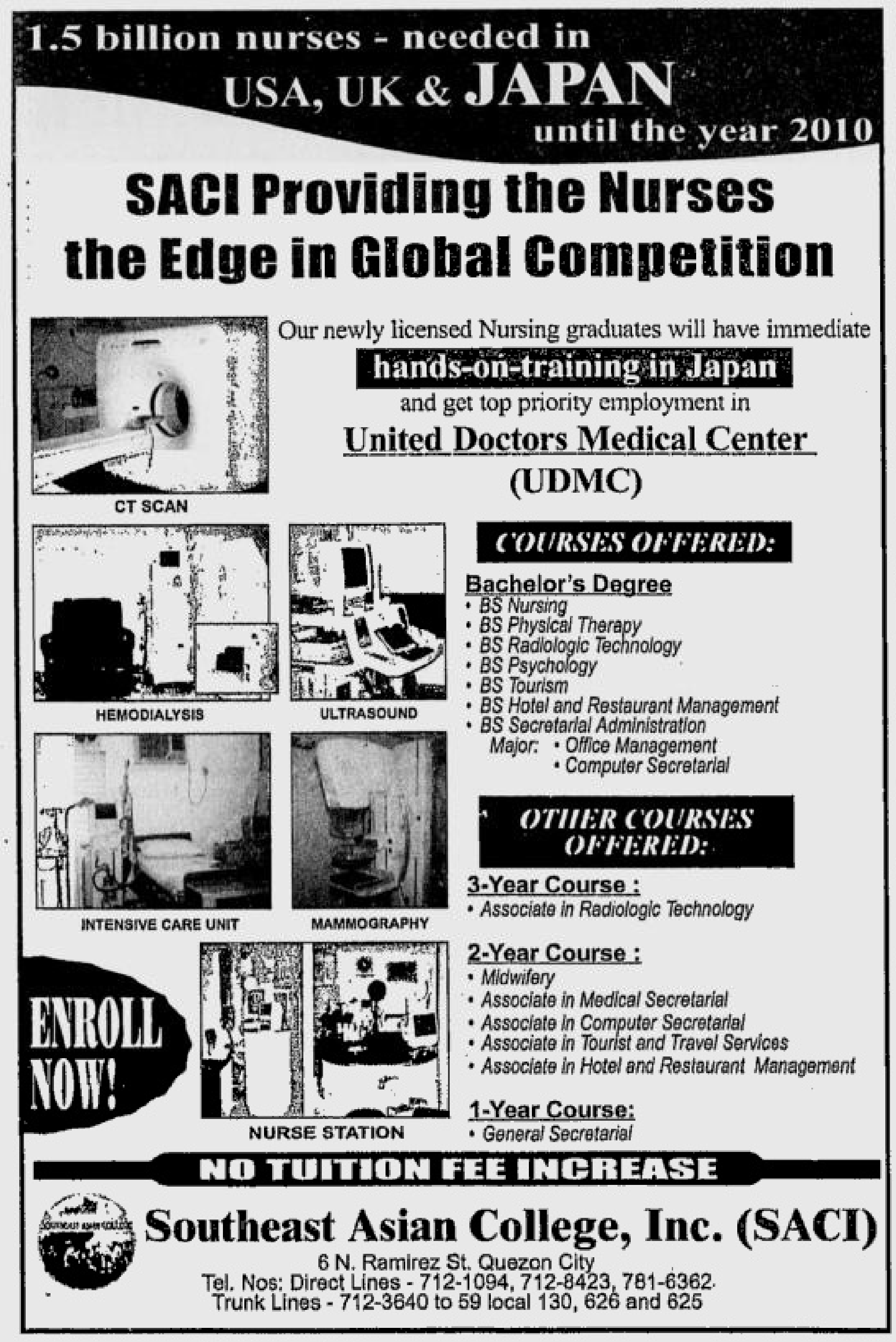
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DEAN RICARDO L. SADAC
President & Review Director

Lucena mayor bears brunt of Gloria's temper

By Delfin T. Mallari Jr.
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

LUCENA CITY—Local officials asking the President to grace a community affair had better be ready with tangible documents regarding the function for presentation to the notoriously workaholic Ms Macapagal.

Otherwise, they could suffer the "nerve-wracking" and nail-biting hour that Lucena City Mayor Ramon Talaga Jr. and an audience of 500 barangay officials experienced here yesterday.

The President again displayed her patented "sarcastic irritation" when something goes wrong in a time-controlled presidential visit.

During the program that started as soon as the President arrived at 10:30 a.m., Talaga delivered a short speech in which he read from a paper summarizing the issues and concerns affecting the city's 33 barangays.

As he was about to hand over the piece of paper to the President, Ms Macapagal suddenly rose from her seat onstage and went straight for the microphone.

Her voice rising on a note of irritation, she bombarded Talaga with questions.

"Mayor, before you hand me those issues and concerns, where is your plan? (Where is) the presentation of your plan, can you give me your plan?" Ms Macapagal asked the perplexed, six-foot-tall Talaga.

"That is not a plan. That is not what you're asking the national government. What is your plan? What will the barangay do? That is the meaning of a plan. These are mere issues and concerns. Where is the plan?" she continued.

The President said she had been invited to be presented with the barangay public safety plan.

"(A presentation) of issues and concerns is not a plan. I want to see the plan because that is the way the national government can see what we should fill up," she said.

At this point, Talaga was able to butt in and tell her that there was indeed a plan.

As city officials and employees went about gathering the necessary documents, the impatient Ms Macapagal, noticing that it would take some time, suggested that snacks be served.

She stepped down from the stage and joined the audience, sitting on an empty seat on the front row between Rep. Lynette Punzalan and Gov. Wilfrido Enverga.

But still, no snacks were served.

As Talaga proceeded to read the barangays' public safety plan from a large monitor, the President could be seen sitting sternly with her arms crossed on her chest.

Talaga ended his 30-minute presentation that focused on the drug abuse problem with an apology to the President for the mix-up. When she rose to speak, Ms Macapagal apologized for the incident.

"I also extend my apology and ask for your understanding," she said. She said there could have been some miscommunication with the interior and local governments department.

But Talaga placed the blame on the Presidential Management Staff.

"The PMS people told me that I only had 10 minutes for my speech, that's why I only gave a summary," he told reporters after the President had left.

"We were ready for everything. But it was unfortunate that something went wrong. I'll just charge it to experience," he said.

To address the main problem of the city's barangays, Ms Macapagal urged village officials to lobby for their proposal that a provision be included in the new drug abuse bill that would prohibit recidivists from being allowed to post bail.

A recidivist is a suspect who has been caught at least three times.

In an apparent move to assuage the hurt feelings of the barangay officials and the city mayor, the President added: "And when you're in Manila to lobby at the Senate, I'll invite you to dinner and a launch at Malacañang."

The audience erupted with wild applause. The President also granted Talaga's request for P8 million as her contribution for the construction of a river protection wall.

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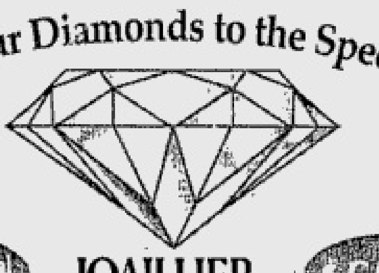

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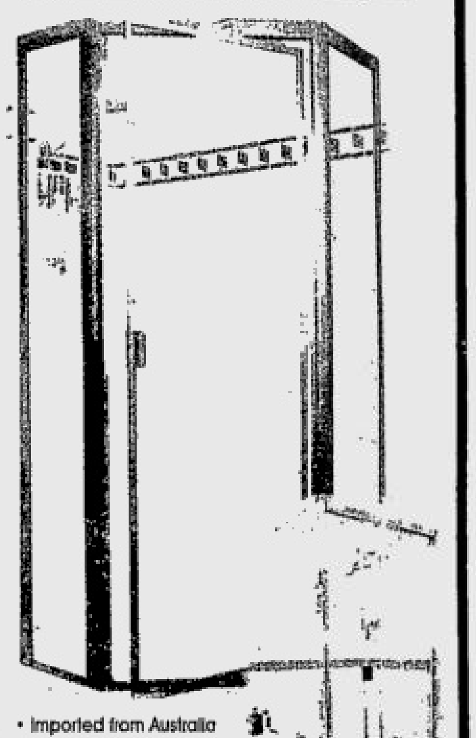

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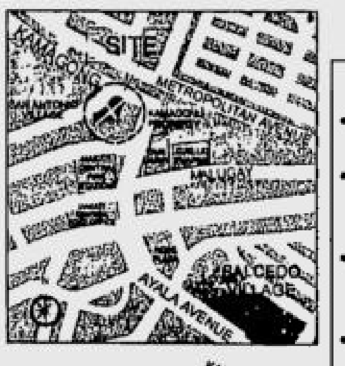

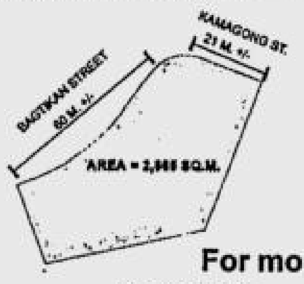

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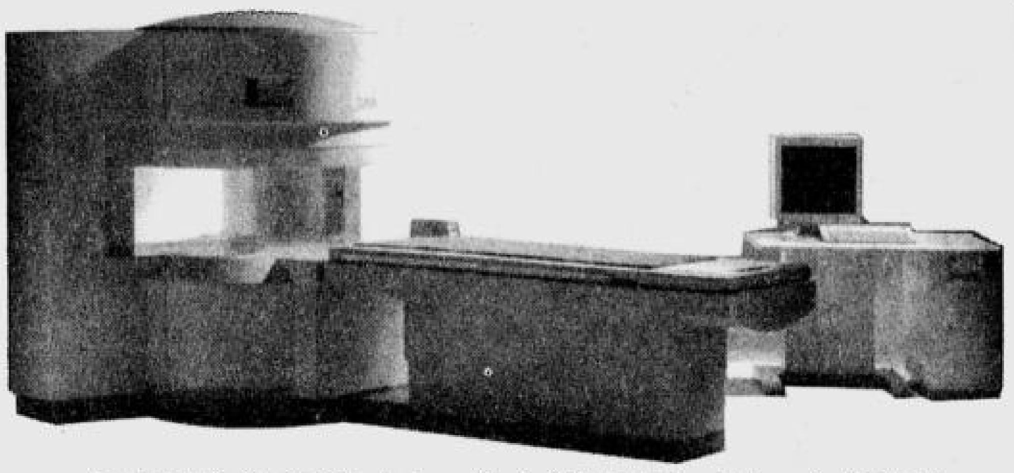
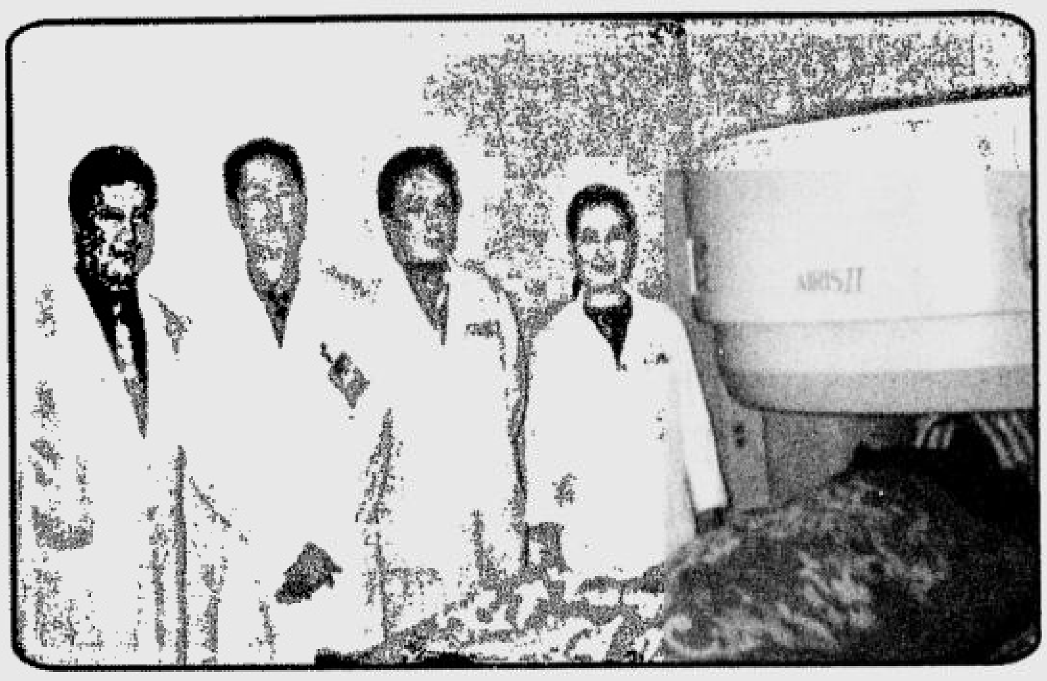


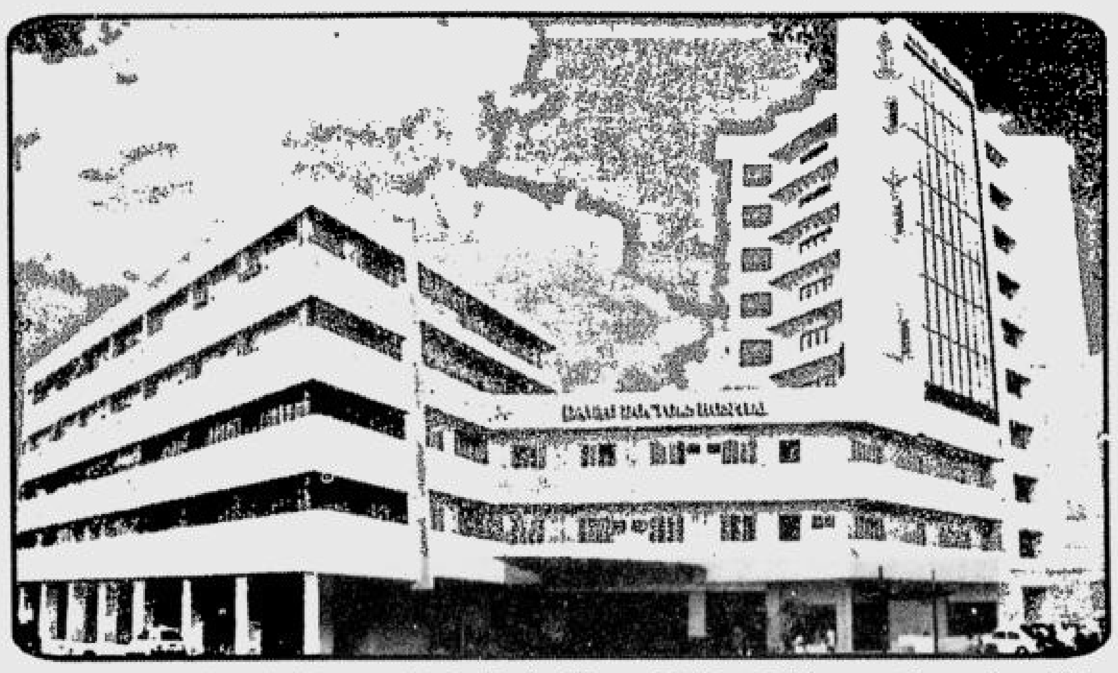
HITACHI AIRIS II MRI

Dr. Herminio A. Villano, Sr., Davao Doctors Hospital President, underscores the fact that in keeping with ISO 9001 Quality Policy, DDH shall fulfill its commitment of ensuring the availability of state-of-the-art equipment and facilities together with trained personnel with proven competence in their field so that quality Health Care shall be within reach by those in Davao City and Mindanao.

The AIRIS II MRI becomes officially available to the public on March 16, 2002 when Davao City celebrates its 65th anniversary.



The consultants of the DDH Radiology Department, Dr. Apolonio S. Bernardo, Dr. Anatole J. Garcia , Radiology Department Chair Dr. Ramon Echevarria, and Dr. Elizabeth J. Reinoso.



Davao Doctors Hospital shown with its Medical Tower (right) which houses the modern clinics of its consultants of various specialties and subspecialties. The DDH complex includes the Oncology Center Building (not shown) which has two units of Cobalt 60 and a Simulator for cancer planning and treatment, and which houses the Orthopedic and Rehabilitation Center (EAORI) and the Eye Referral Center.

Dr. Herminio A. Villano, Sr., President and Chief Executive Officer of Davao Doctors Hospital, arguing the need to upgrade the facilities of the Radiology Department for better service to the community and the region.

CERTIFICATION INTERNATIONAL

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The DDH Board of Directors at work: Dr. Honorio S. Hilario, Sr., Chairman; Dr. Herminio A. Villano, Sr., President & CEO; Dr. Alfonso T. Lopez, Executive Vice President; Dr. Daniel C. de la Paz, Secretary; Dr. Gerino D, Pangan, Treasurer; and Directors Dr. Dominador O. Cabrera, Dr. Honorio E. de la Cruz, Dr. Crispin C. Go, Dr. Carmen I. Guanlao, Dr. Crisostomo M. Serrano, Sr., and Dr. Ernesto Tan.

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Certification International Phils., Inc. (CIP) Managing Director Renato Navarette officially awarded the ISO 9001 certificates of Davao Doctors Hospital to Dr. Herminio A. Villano, Sr. and to the chairmen of the various clinical departments whose residency training programs were likewise certified. From left: Dr. Rolando Chiu, Surgery Dept. Chair, Dr. Ma. Lourdes Ayroso, Anesthesiology Dept. Chair, Dr. Connie D. Rayel, Obstetrics & Gynecology Dept. Chair, Dr. Rolando Gestuvo, Ophthalmology Dept. Chair, Dr. H. Villano and Mr. R. Navarette, Dr. Rosa Cabrera, Pediatrics Dept. Chair, Dr. Celia Castillo, Internal Medicine Dept. Chair, and Dr. Apolonio Bernardo, Training Officer of the Radiology Dept. receiving the certificate in behalf of Dr. Ramon Echevarria, Dept. Chair.

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2 soldiers, 3 rebs slain in ambush

TWO soldiers and three New People's Army rebels were killed in an ambush in Surigao del Sur on Friday afternoon.

Military reports identified the casualties as Sgt. Eulogio Atalo Jr. and Pfc. Ryan Ownel Camanao.

Seventeen soldiers were also wounded in the attack and were brought to the Andres Soriano Memorial Hospital in Bislig City for treatment, according to reports sent to the Armed Forces headquarters in Camp Aguinaldo.

Lt. Col. Jose Mabanta, Army spokesperson, said that the soldiers were aboard a truck when they were waylaid by more than 70 NPA rebels in Sitio Rock-1, Barangay Tagbubunga in Hinatuan around 1 p.m. Friday.

The soldiers returned fire and engaged the rebels for three hours. Shortly after, the rebels withdrew when reinforcements arrived.

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BAGUIO KIDNAP-SLAYS

Cops dared to find mystery girl

BAGUIO CITY—The father of a slain University of the Philippines Baguio student has challenged police to find the woman who supposedly holds the key to his son's and a friend's murder.

The woman in question was purportedly the reason for a fraternity rivalry that led to the killing of his son, Giancarlo Leung, and his woman friend, Tihani Tingal, last year. Tingal was a UP Baguio graduate.

Giancarlo's father, Charles Leung, also lashed out at what he called the disunity of the law enforcement agencies that were ordered by President Macapagal-Arroyo last year to coordinate in the investigation of the case.

The young Leung and Tingal were abducted in this city on March 8, 2001. Their bodies were found in Pampanga three days later.

"There is no cooperation or coordination among the units or agencies involved in the case. We have seen the tendency of one unit to remain utterly ignorant of the leads developed by another," Leung told Senior Supt. Generoso Bonifacio, CIDG Cordillera director, in a March 14 letter.

But Leung said he was more incensed at Bonifacio for insisting in an INQUIRER interview that the CIDG had "solved" the double murder case, yet had found no justification to "close" it.

Late last year, the CIDG arrested Raymund Testado, founder and leader of "Magic 5," a supposed breakaway faction of the Samahang Ilokano (SI) fraternity.

An SI sorority sister had reportedly been beaten and tortured by the Beta Sigma fraternity in January 2001. At the time, the young Leung was head of Beta Sigma at UP Baguio.

Police also arrested "Magic 5" members Henry Sison and Ronald Domalina.

PNP Director General Leandro Mendoza declared the case closed after their arrests. All three suspects were on trial in Villasis, Pangasinan, until the trial was transferred to Manila.

Resumption of the trial is pending and Testado and Sison are out on bail.

"To this date, the CIDG abides (by) its initial theory of inter-fraternity rivalry. When the allegations of mutilation on the (sorority) girl were made, did the authorities even bother to check out the allegations, or in the rush to ferret out a solution, did they simply take statements made at face value?" Leung asked in his letter.

Chief witness Job Calano, 22, told the INQUIRER in an interview last year that he had been recruited along with other "Magic 5" members to "avenge" their "sister." ***Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

Pressure mounts on Comelec chief

JOINED by Sen. Renato Cayetano in his opposition to the confirmation of Commission on Elections chair Alfredo Benipayo, Rep. Prospero Pichay yesterday called on the embattled Comelec chief to offer his immediate resignation.

Pichay, chair of the House national defense committee, said Benipayo should be sincere with his offer to give President Macapagal-Arroyo a clear field to recommend a new appointee.

The Lakas congressman acknowledged Cayetano's declaration of opposition to Benipayo's confirmation. Cayetano, vice chair of the commission's committee on rules, joined Senate President Franklin Drilon in calling for the President to reconsider Benipayo's reappointment because of his alleged inability to lead a collegial body like the Comelec.

Cayetano said that if the President would re-appoint Benipayo, then the infighting between two groups of commissioners of the Comelec, would persist.

PMA 'goat' wants to fight in Basilan

By Jovelyn Reyes
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

FORT DEL PILAR, Baguio City—He may be the "goat" of this year's graduating class at the Philippine Military Academy, but First Class Cadet Gregory Inumpa Jr. wants to prove his worth in the battlefield by going to Basilan.

"I want to help bring peace to the South. I know it's difficult but I want to serve my countrymen," said Inumpa, who is graduating last of PMA's Banyuhay Class 2002's 138 graduates.

Inumpa, 24, will join the Philippine Army after graduation on March 24. Of the 138 graduates, 59 are joining the Army. Six of them are women.

Inumpa's plan to fight terrorists in Mindanao is supported by his family, whose members had seen military action themselves.

"We are expecting Gregory to fight in the South (and) we are ready for it," said Inumpa's father, First Sgt. Gregory Inumpa Sr., head of academic support personnel at the PMA.

"His great-grandfather, his grandfather and I all fought in the mountains and we all came out alive. I know he will, too," the elder Inumpa said.

DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

The Board of Foreign Service Examinations (BFSE) of the Department of Foreign Affairs announces the holding of the –

2002 FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICER (FSO) EXAMINATIONS

to recruit candidates for appointment to the position of Foreign Service Officer Class IV (FSO IV).

The FSO examinations consist of three (3) parts which will be held on the following dates:

Qualifying Test : 5 May 2002
Written Examinations : 3, 4 and 5 July 2002
Oral Examinations : To be determined at a later date.

IMPORTANT:

(1) Application forms and relevant information regarding the examinations may be obtained personally or requested through mail from the following offices of the Department of Foreign Affairs:

The Board Secretariat
12/Fl., DFA Building
2330 Roxas Blvd.
Pasay City
Tel. Nos. 834-3083/
3080/
4925/
4923

DFA Regional
Consular Office
Causing-Lozada Bldg.
Osmena Blvd., corner
Lapu-lapu St.
Cebu City
Tel. Nos. (032)
256-3193
253-6798
256-0624

DFA Regional
Consular Office
5/Fl., City Hall Bldg.
Cagayan de Oro City
Tel. Nos. (08822)
724-309
857-2175

DFA Regional
Consular Office
Yulo Street
Iloilo City
Tel. Nos. (033)
336-1737
337-8017

DFA –Mindanao
Doors 1 & 2, Tourism Complex
Magsaysay Park 8000
Davao City
Tel Nos. (802)
227-3900
227-0712
227-0713

DFA Regional
Consular Office
Upper Calarian,
Southcom Bldg.
Zamboanga City
Tel. Nos. (062)
991-4398
991-7958

DFA Regional
Consular Office
Transfield Bldg.
Pagdalagan Norte
San Fernando, La Union
Tel. Nos. (072)
888-3733
888-5484

DFA Regional
Consular Office
3/Fl., City Hall Bldg.
Legaspi City
Tel. Nos. (052)
480-1773
245-5056

DFA Regional
Consular Office
Municipal Building
Tuguegarao, Cagayan Valley
Tel. No. (078)
846-2310

DFA Regional
Consular Office
Manpower Training Center
Better Living Subdivision,
Isabang, Lucena City
Tel. Nos. (042)
710-4526
373-1898

DFA Regional
Consular Office
Paskuhan Village
San Fernando, Pampanga
Tel. Nos. (045)
963-1879
961-6638

(2) Application forms may also be obtained from the Regional Offices of the Civil Service Commission (CSC).

(3) Application forms may also be downloaded from the Department of Foreign Affairs' website: www.dfa.gov.ph and the Civil Service Commission's website: www.csc.gov.ph .

Completed application forms together with the documentary requirements must be returned by the applicants themselves or by postal service to any of the DFA offices enumerated above not later than 5 April 2002 for evaluation and processing.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Sunday, March 17, 2002
5th Sunday of Lent

1st Reading: Ezk 37:12-14

This is what Yahweh says, "I am going to open your tombs, I shall bring you out of your tombs, my people, and lead you back to the land of Israel. You will know that I am Yahweh, O my people! when I open your graves and bring you out of your graves, when I put my spirit in you and you live. I shall settle you in your land and you will know that I, Yahweh, have done what I said I would do."

2nd Reading: Rom 8:8-11

Brothers and sisters, those walking according to the flesh cannot please God.

Yet your existence is not in the flesh, but in the spirit, because the Spirit of God is within you. If you did not have the Spirit of Christ, you would not belong to him. But Christ is within you; though the body is branded by death as a consequence of sin, the spirit is life and holiness. And if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead is within you, He who raised Jesus Christ from among the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies. Yes, he will do it through his Spirit who dwells within you.

Gospel: Jn 11:1-45 (or Jn 11:3-7, 17, 20-27, 33-45)

The sisters of Lazarus sent this message to Jesus, "Lord, the one you love is sick." On hearing this Jesus said, "This illness will not end in death; rather it is for God's glory and the Son of God will be glorified through it."

It is a fact that Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus; yet, after he heard of the illness of Lazarus, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was. Only then did he say to his disciples, "Let us go into Judea again." They replied, "Master, recently the Jews wanted to stone you. Are you going there again?"

When Jesus came, he found that Lazarus had been in the tomb for four days.

When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went to meet him while Mary remained sitting in the house. And she said to Jesus, "If you had been here, my brother would not have died. But I know that whatever you ask from God, God will give you." Jesus said, "Your brother will rise again."

Martha replied, "I know that he will rise in the resurrection, at the last day." But Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection; whoever believes in me, though he die, shall live. Whoever is alive by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?"

Martha then answered, "Yes, Lord, I have come to believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, he who is coming into the world."

When Jesus saw her weeping and the Jews also who had come with her, he was moved in the depths of his spirit and troubled. Then he asked, "Where have you laid him?" They answered, "Lord, come and see." And Jesus wept.

The Jews said, "See how he loved him!" But some of them said, "If he could open the eyes of the blind man, could he not have kept this man from dying?"

Jesus was deeply moved again and drew near to the tomb. It was a cave with a stone laid across it. Jesus ordered, "Take the stone away." Martha said to him, "Lord, by now he will smell, for this is the fourth day." Jesus replied, "Have I not told you that if you believe, you will see the glory of God?" So they removed the stone.

Jesus lifted up his eyes and said, "Father, I thank you for you have heard me. I knew that you hear me always; but my prayer was for the sake of these people, that they may believe that you sent me." When Jesus had said this, he cried out in a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!"

The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with linen strips and his face wrapped in a cloth. So Jesus said to them, "Untie him and let him go."

Many of the Jews who had come with Mary believed in Jesus when they saw what he did.

Commentary

Each reading shouts: "Resurrection! Life!" The Church won't let us forget we're celebrating Our Lord's passover from death to LIFE! We have many reasons for discouragement. But take heart, the conditions for despair are precisely the conditions for hope. We can't get any lower than the tomb and that's where God is active. No one knows why the world is as it is, why we always go through death to life. What we do know is that our Creator is beside and ahead of us every step of the way. And we are loved! Hear the affection in the reading from Ezekiel? Hear God's joy in giving life? Ever wonder from where comes the love that springs up in your own heart? "The Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead is within you!" Jesus, who wept for love of his friend, lives in you!

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SUPREME COURT GUIDELINES

POLITICAL LAW (CONSTITUTIONAL LAW)—Balancing test—Equally applicable is the balancing test used to determine whether a defendant has been denied his right to a speedy trial, or a speedy disposition of a case for that matter, in which the conduct if both the prosecution and the defendant is weighed, and such factors as the length of delay, the reasons for such delay, the assertion or failure to assert such right by the accused, and the prejudice caused by the delay. The concept of speedy disposition is a relative term and must necessarily by a flexible concept. [Citations omitted.] [Justice Gonzaga-Reyes, Third Division, Lopez v. Office of the Ombudsman, G.R. No. 140529, September 6, 2001]

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Gloria warns Moro, communist rebs

By D. Pazzibugan

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo warned Muslim and communist rebels yesterday that she will unleash "all (the) might" of her security forces if they undertake "terrorist and criminal" acts.

She made the warning even as she stressed that she wants to make peace with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front and the communist-led National Democratic Front.

The military and MILF had a series of encounters in Lanao del Sur and Maguindanao in the past weeks despite a ceasefire pact.

The military claimed the MILF had gone on the offensive again, which the MILF denied.

"The President emphasized that while her administration cherishes the dove of peace, our police and military will use all their might against terrorist and criminal actions, especially attacks against government outposts and civilian communities, that may be undertaken by elements of the MILF and the Maoists," her spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao said in a statement.

He said the military and the police will fully support the peace talks, "(but they) will respond quickly and forcefully against terrorist attacks."

"No ceasefire lines can be invoked to impede hot pursuit," he went on.

When interviewed, Tiglao said the President issued the statement "just to clarify recent newspaper reports."

He did not elaborate.

Ms Macapagal suspended formal peace talks with the MILF two weeks ago after the series of clashes.

She named a special emissary who will hold "backdoor talks" with the MILF while official negotiators tresh out the issue.

Tiglao said the special emissary, whom he refused to identify, will meet with his/her counterpart on Monday.

Ms Macapagal believes that backdoor talks will expedite the formal discussion.

The government had suspended its formal talks with the CPP mid-last year.

It accused the New People's Army of carrying out assassinations.

Tiglao said the President had also appointed special emissaries to talk with the CPP.

"(She) is hoping and appealing to leaders of the MILF and the CPP-NPA that such discussions will very soon lead to formal but concise talks for finally ending their violent projects to overthrow our system of government, he said.

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OPINION

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Side by side

EDITORIAL

THOUSANDS of miles away from the scripted melodrama that deposed President Joseph Estrada is badly reading, a life-and-death struggle between two peoples is taking place. We should turn our attention to it, not only because thousands of lives have been lost in the spiral of violence, but also because in this struggle lies an object lesson in the limits of power. Estrada and his supporters (and those political leaders who are agitating them) should take heed.

On March 13, the United Nations Security Council passed a historic resolution "affirming the vision" of a Palestinian state living "side by side" with Israel. The 14-0 vote marked several firsts. It was the first resolution by the UN's highest policymaking body on the issue since the start of the second Palestinian uprising a year and a half ago; the first time the United States, Israel's closest ally, sponsored a resolution on the conflict in about two decades; and the first time the United States has used the forum of the UN to declare its support for Palestinian statehood.

The vote came at the end of one of the bloodiest days in the Middle East in recent memory, when Israeli forces killed 31 Palestinians in their biggest military offensive in the West Bank and Gaza since Israel captured the territories in the 1967 war. Earlier that day, UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan used unambiguous language to describe the situation on the ground. "The situation is the worst in 10 years," he said. He estimated that the conflict had claimed over 1,500 lives in the last 18 months, including more than 230 in the preceding 10 days alone.

The death toll, however, has been markedly disproportionate: in the last year and a half, 339 Israelis died while 1,168 Palestinians perished. That is, seven Palestinian lives were lost for every two Israelis killed. In the 10 days before the UN vote, the death ratio went up slightly, with some 50 Israelis killed and some 180 Palestinians dead.

This mortal increase is not an accident; it is, in fact, the cynical cornerstone of the policy of Israel's Prime Minister Ariel Sharon. He has said that Israel must inflict more casualties to force the Palestinians back to the negotiating table. The day after the UN vote, Israeli television said Sharon even favored intensifying the attacks, strictly as a negotiating gambit.

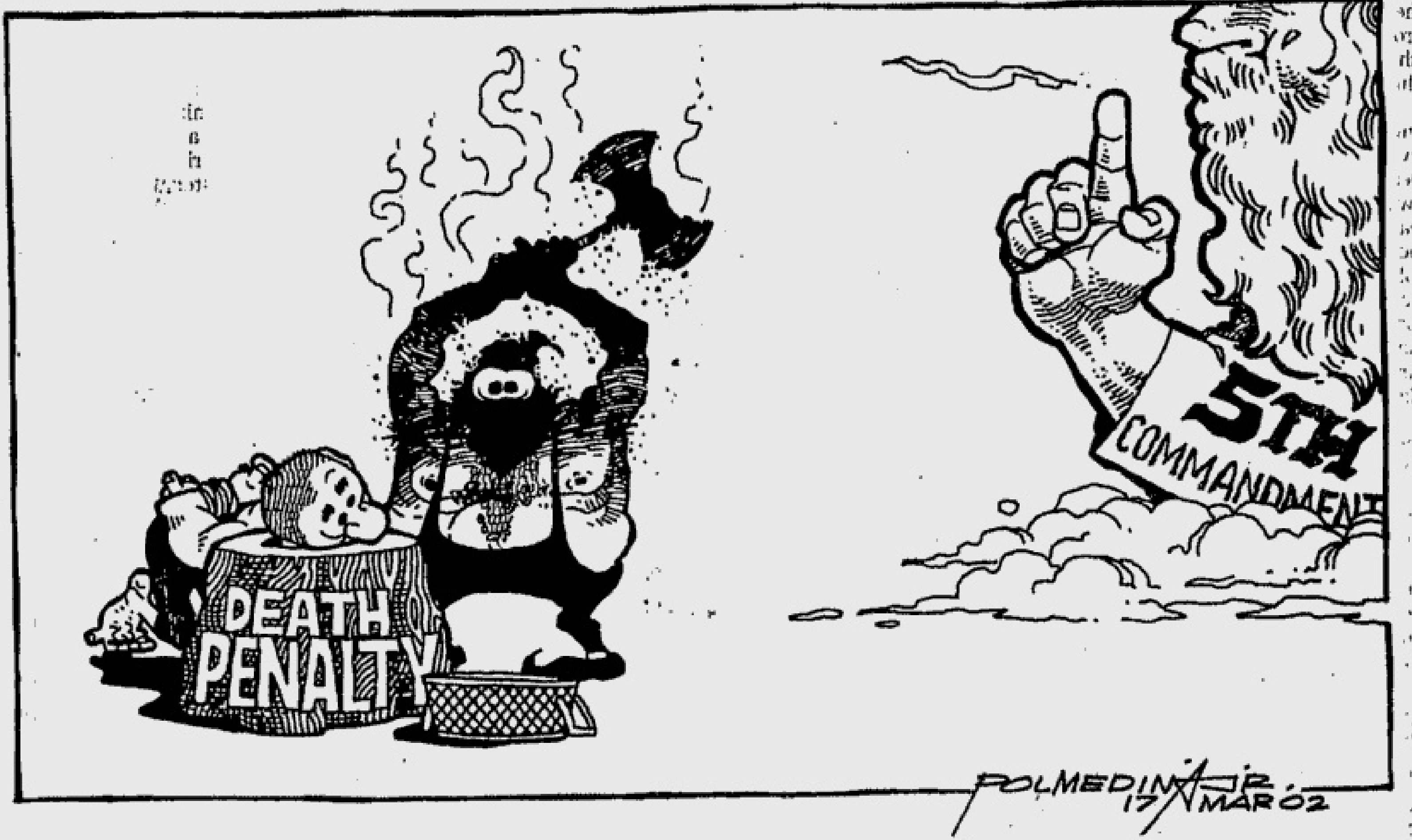
But what kind of attacks has Israel carried out? As the Washington Post has reported, the Israeli army is using UN schools in Palestinian refugee camps as "staging areas for attacks." Israeli troops have opened fire on ambulances carrying wounded Palestinians, and hit journalists traveling in clearly marked vehicles.

To be sure, there is a tumultuous debate inside Israel regarding its military action, even within its Cabinet. Speaking on television after a confrontation with Sharon, the country's defense minister said: "Continuing the operation will cause us tremendous political damage without any military advan-tages...Just to go in and make trouble for the civilian population is unnecessary."

Annan, while urging Israel to end its "illegal occupation," also strongly condemned the Palestinians for their suicide bombings and rocket attacks on civilian targets, calling the campaign "morally repugnant."

But—and here is the lesson for Estrada and his more rabid followers—extremism has backfired on Israel. While officially welcoming the UN resolution as "balanced," Israeli officials cannot be unaware that their ruthless military action has only strengthened the Palestinians' hand, in effect pushing the UN to affirm the vision of two states living side by side. In the last several days, too, Israel has come under unusual criticism from US officials; the United States even issued a rare call that its ally pull out of the West Bank and Gaza. Last week, Maariv, one of Israel's leading newspapers, editorialized: "Sharon has finally understood the limits of power and the advantages of dialogue."

Has he? Israel's policy remains cynical: Sic its superior military on the civilian population, merely to gain a bargaining advantage. Born out of a persecuted people's epic struggle to forge a nation for itself, Israel ought to recognize its own history in the struggle of the Palestinians. That it has failed to do so means that under Sharon Israel has lost its way in the desert.



In a tizzy over Erap

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

MANY of our government officials may not realize it, but they are in a tizzy over poor Joseph Estrada. The man is ailing but the Sandiganbayan will not permit him to go abroad for medical treatment by American experts. He wanted his plunder case concluded as soon as possible, but when the court called for daily hearings, he claimed his conviction was being railroaded. After he dismissed his lawyers, he rejected the *de oficio* lawyers appointed to represent him, including the prestigious Mario Ongkiko. He now says he is like Ninoy Aquino because he is being tried by a biased Sandiganbayan, let alone the Supreme Court itself and its highly-respected Chief Justice Hilario G. Davide Jr.

The fastidious ex-president had earlier complained of his detention quarters in Laguna, a comfortable cottage with many amenities denied other detention prisoners accused of plunder. This prompted the government to transfer him to the Veterans Memorial Medical Center, where he once threw a lavish party. Still he is complaining. He was allowed to stay in a private hospital for some time due to some affliction. He moved for permission to go to the United States for a cataract operation but, when his motion was denied, had the surgery successfully performed by our own doctors. Now he wants to go to the United States, this time for surgery on his knees. Eyes are eyes, but knees are knees.

The wonder of it all is that no less than 136 representatives and 19 senators have endorsed his motion and in effect are trying to influence the Sandiganbayan to grant it. On their face alone, the resolutions are a direct pressure on the court and a blatant disrespect for the independence of the judiciary. No less noteworthy, even members of the party in power, including his adversaries in the impeachment proceedings, signed the resolutions allegedly out of compassion for the ousted president. Some of the signatories have reportedly withdrawn their signatures, but their retraction does not rehabilitate their sense of values or flawed plain common sense.

The popular, and I believe correct, sentiment is that Erap should not be permitted to go abroad because he will never return. With the many serious charges against him, including the heinous crime of plunder, Estrada will think twice before deciding to come back and face the music, which could be a dirge for him. Plunder is punishable with death. With the way he is conducting his defense—or non-defense—the Sandiganbayan will have no choice but to convict him. The constitutional presumption of innocence can be overcome with contrary evidence which, if not refuted by the defense, will cook the goose of the accused.

Estrada's recent admission that he is the hitherto mysterious Jose Velarde was an unexpected bonus that has practically clinched the case for the prosecution. I can imagine the dismay of his lawyers for their client's indiscretion. Were they dismissed because they chided him for shooting off his mouth? Or was all this a mere *palabas*, a tear-jerker scripted by the former movie actor in a bid for the sympathy of his *bakya* supporters?

What's obvious is that some of our top leaders have been taken in and are now thinking up ways and means of pulling Erap out of the hole he is in. Significantly, three of the do-gooders are known Estrada allies, namely, Blas Ople, Edgardo Angara and Aquilino Pimentel. Together with Speaker Jose de Venecia, they say their purpose is purely patriotic, i.e., to defuse what they call the Erap political crisis for the good of the country. They should stand up and salute when they say that.

For the good of Erap is a more honest reason. The move of these altruistic gentlemen is based on a non-existent ground. There is no political crisis except in their minds, which conjure riots and chaos if Erap is not served. They are raising the specter of widespread disorder, which is their reason for extricating Erap from his bind and, through him, regaining political power for themselves. Their solution is Estrada's exile, which is also their way of getting rid of him as an embarrassment to their party and an obstacle to their own ambitions.

The threat of disorder from the Erap loyalists is a mere phantasm. Many of them have defected because of disenchantment with their fallen idol; others were burned by the May 1 rally last year when their leaders urged them to attack Malacañang and left them in the lurch as the soldiers closed in. In fact, Estrada himself has been marginalized. Despite his self-serving claims, he is no longer the charismatic leader who used to play the crowds but a defeated and enfeebled general brandishing a rusted sword.

In any case, the exile they are planning for Erap is not allowed under the Constitution or our existing legislation. It is an ugly scheme to relieve him of the punishment our laws dictate for the crimes he is alleged, and may be found, to have committed. Such special treatment is not due even the sullied ex-president now in the dock of the Sandiganbayan. It may also start a convenient precedent for the benefit of successors similarly motivated and indicted as the disgraced Joseph Estrada.

Not the end, just a bend

MOMENTS

Fr. Jerry M. Orbos, SVD

LAZARUS was stuck in the tomb for four days until Jesus came and raised him up (Jn. 11, 1-45). Last Sunday, I too experienced being stuck in a parking space and had to wait for some 40 minutes before I could get out. I was properly parked, but somebody left his car unattended and it was blocking my way out. There was nothing I could do but wait, and practice a lot of patience.

Finally, the owner arrived. He didn't even say sorry and just drove off before I could even say anything. This happened not in a mall or an eatery, but, guess where? In a church parking space. That person went there to attend the evening Mass!

* * *

It would be dishonest of me if I said I was not mad at the insensibility of the person who held me in that parking lot "tomb." But rather than be buried, I tried to rise above the occasion by meditating on the message of that parking-lot moment. (Yes, God speaks to us in very simple, ordinary moments!) The main message was our utter helplessness in the face of death. There is really nothing we can do about it. None of us will leave this world alive!

All our power, our money, our influence can do nothing to prevent our going to the grave. It was a loud and clear Lenten reminder that we all should humble ourselves before God, who alone has power over death.

Mr. Driver Churchgoer, whoever you are, thank you for giving me the opportunity to have that unscheduled reflection in the parking lot. (But don't do it again, okay?)

* * *

Jesus wept at the death of Lazarus. Even Jesus experienced the pain of losing a loved one. Jesus was so real and so human.

Some of us have forgotten how to be spontaneous and natural with our feelings. We hide them, we deny them, or we simply become altogether cold or indifferent. When was the last time you wept? When was the last time you really brought out your true feelings? Do you still have feelings at all? People are suffering around you, do you still feel this pain? People are expressing their love for you, do you still accept them? People are singing and celebrating, do you still feel joy and excitement like a child again?

Jesus teaches us that no matter who we are or who we think we are, we must not deny, negate, rationalize or spiritualize our feelings. *Magpakatotoo ka!*

* * *

Jesus wept over Lazarus. Will people weep for you when you are gone? Are you worth weeping for? Or, are people weeping now because of you, while you are still alive, meaning, you are the one causing them so much pain and disappointment? Are you the tear-jerker, a jerk that tears the hearts and lives of your loved ones?

* * *

I cannot help but admire the confidence of Jesus in dealing with death. He had full control of the situation. Truly, Jesus is victorious over death.

We, too, who have been redeemed by His Resurrection, must be confident that death, no matter how painful, is not the end of the road, but just a bend on the road. We must continue to believe and keep on believing that there is something beautiful that awaits us after our life of trials and sufferings. Because of His Death and Resurrection, we will meet again our departed relatives and friends in "that kingdom where there are no more pains, no more sorrow, no more sadness, no more problems."

I don't know about you, but I hope I can go to heaven someday. See you there, okay?

* * *

Let us remember all fathers today as we celebrate the Jubilee of Fathers. Let us pray that they be really dedicated to their mission of raising and leaving behind good children in this world. The best gift a father can give to his children, aside from their material well-being, is their moral and spiritual well-being. May every father be an image of our Heavenly Father. Fathers, don't forget too that the best way to show your love to your children is to love their mother!

* * *

Next Sunday, Palm Sunday, is the beginning of Holy Week. Please find time, with your family, to join the liturgical services and the many recollections and retreats being organized around this time of the year. I am inviting you to join me in the Annual Palm Sunday Recollection (8 a.m. to 1 p.m.) at the Meralco Theater to be participated in by Mike Joseph, Sandy Andolong, Dr. Jose Esteban, Kara Magsanoc-Alikpala, Cocoy Laurel, Ed Unson, Ping Fernandez, Aiza Seguerra and Christopher de Leon. The Oasis of Love will share their lovely songs. There will be confession and a Mass at 11 a.m., celebrated by me with our Filipino missionaries. The Mission Angels have been organizing this recollection for the past six years already. Palms will be available at the Meralco Theater Lobby.

* * *

Here's an invitation to the Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish Lenten Recollection at the Araneta Coliseum on Holy Tuesday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday.

I will have a recollection in Kalibo on the 25th (8-10 p.m.), Antipolo Good Shepherd Spiritual Center on the 27th (8-11 a.m.), Hearts of Jesus and Mary Parish also on the 27th (7 to 10 p.m.), at the Ultra on Holy Thursday (8:30-12 noon), ABS-CBN Holy Thursday Mass (4 p.m), and the Seven Last Words at St. Jude (1 p.m.).

Whew! All for the Lord!

* * *

A moment with the Lord:

Lord, with You, it is never the end, but always a bend. Amen.

Symphony at a standstill

COMMENTARY

Sylvia L. Mayuga

"AN ORCHESTRAL piece in three movements" is how musical Imê Sarmiento, executive director of the Clean & Green Foundation Inc. (C&GFI) and its project Piso Para Sa Pasig (PPP), describes the Danish International Development Assistance (Danida) blueprint for the rehabilitation of the Pasig River.

Imê, who raised the P40-million trust fund for ongoing information and advocacy on our mother river's revival, says the first movement is the cleanup of 45 percent of the industrial pollution. Sweep-up of 10 percent solid waste (*basura*, the least but smelliest pollutant) is the second movement. The third and most difficult movement involves elimination of 45 percent of domestic liquid waste by complete riverbank squatter relocation, converting all septic tanks, and creating a state-of-the-art sewerage system for Metro Manila after centuries of raw disposal into its waterways, on to Manila Bay and beyond.

The government has yet to conduct this symphony of survival without dissonant disjunction and fitful pause. Fidel Ramos "did a little of everything" in his watch—dredging debris and 44 sunken derelicts, sweeping river garbage, relocating "around 5,000" squatter families in goosestep. Joseph Estrada (this, too, must be remembered) signed a Pasig River Covenant with civil society before the 1998 elections. He kept it by relocating more squatters, elevating a DENR task force into a new Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission (PRRC) headed by the budget secretary and the MMDA chair under the Office of the President, capping the record with a riverbank development plan.

Parts of the river have already regained a natural hue, stink subsiding in high tide, but the DENR must yet see to completion the installation of wastewater treatment facilities in all riverbank factories—and vigilantly monitor existing ones left idle to cut on costs. Secretary Heherson Alvarez's confirmation woes have not made things easier. A $50-million loan from the Asian Development Bank for that sewerage system has been released but not even hard cash can summon orchestral harmony.

Squatter/voters in Atienza's Manila, to begin with, are now creeping back to cleared stretches with impunity, openly defecating into the river. As it is, over 5,000 more riverbank dwellings must be relocated, a number through legal battle, as new shanties mushroom in the night. Upon turnover to local governments, a visionary stretch of riverbank parks begun by C&GFI, PPP and the Heritage Conservation Society began going to seed in Del Pan on one end, then reeling under Atienza's designs on the Mehan Gardens, and Arroceros Park on the other. Two C&GFI-PPP "eco-boats" for mechanized garbage collection, worth P11 million, also stand idle, awaiting their cue.

When "Muling Aawit ang Pasig," the annual concert initiated by GMA-7, marks its own 7th anniversary in April, it could well be playing the song of a mother river and its daughter tributaries in Metro Manila seeping back into popular consciousness by fair means and foul. Like the birth of people power, melody rises from high and low, Left, Right and Center, converging again in common hope and fresh vision while the government lags behind in the pitifully short horizon of electoral politics.

As ever, new notes spring from the grass roots. Piso collection bottles that began jingling to a new tune in the 1990s continue to be answered by corporate donations even through hard times. Early on, the community-based Sagip Pasig Movement's Lason Awards shamed industrial polluters to begin cleaning up their act. Next, C&GFI-PPP's Gawad Walis at Paso and Cleanest and Greenest contests declared Pasig's Barangay Ugong, Sta. Ana's Barangay Punta, Makati's Barangay Olimpia and Marikina's Barangay Tañong blooming as riverbank role models.

Popular knowledge and understanding are growing from sheer need. "Kumusta Ka Na, Ilog Pasig?", a new biennial symposium for public update and dialogue, began in 2000. There, too, is the Pasig River Heritage Marathon, now an annual February event inspired by a century-old New York tradition. It runs west to east, up and down, back and forth 13 bridges—a grueling 42 km from Intramuros to the Fort Bonifacio Global City. Free of motorists' blinders, it is a close, startling look at a once magnificent mother river and how very much a daughter city has forgotten. Next: a Pasig River Heritage Map and musical classics on CD funded by the NCCA.

This summer, when the river stands still in tidal balance between salty Manila Bay and freshwater Laguna de Bai, take a whiff of the Pasig and remember how its thick stench in Malacañang led to Danida's blueprint for rehabilitation plan in the Cory years. Sniff the air of a now cleaner river with a prayer of thanks for the vision of a Delfin Ganapin Jr., then environment undersecretary, and the politics of Environment Secretary Fulgencio Factoran Jr.

After Erap sailed out of office on a cleaner river, there began a virtual intermission for a new PRRC under the Macapagal administration's learning curve. GMA's new Executive Order 72, in a recent frenzy of desk clearing, has just lobbed it from her office to the MMDA. Much-besieged Ben Abalos must now wield the baton as well over local governments with devolved police powers over riverbanks, if the symphony is not to pack up.

On the seventh of a 15-year timetable, Inang Pasig cries for a paradigm shift at the very top—from a landlocked perspective to real recognition of our nation's larger watery reality. Then perhaps we can proceed with reversing a source of racial shame in the pigsties of our capital city's waters, and imminent danger of drowning in our own garbage. The way begins neither in technology nor in bread and economic management alone but in a worthy daughter's heart and soul.

Sylvia L. Mayuga is a veteran freelance writer on historical and cultural issues.

Zany road trip

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

ROAD TRIP movies have always been on the zany side—think of the screwball comedies of the Marx Brothers, Bob Hope's and Bing Crosby's "Road to…" series, and the slew of films with youthful stars "finding themselves" along the highway. "Ice Age" keeps true to this zany tradition, especially because its crew of roadies has got to be the oddest assortment of travelers to ever walk down the celluloid road.

Imagine a wooly mammoth called Manny, literally moving against the tide, moving north because all the other creatures are migrating south, a gruff manner and thick hairy hide shielding a soft heart. Then there's Sid, the street-wise sloth (even if there were, strictly, no streets yet at that time) prone to getting himself into trouble and creating mayhem for everyone else. Diego, the saber-toothed tiger, joins them as an "uber-guide" but hides a darker motivation for sticking with the band. The point to their exertions? To return a human baby to his family, before the ice sets in and the tribe reaches its encampment.

Playing a "cameo role" in "Ice Age" is Scrat, a prehistoric ancestor of the squirrel and the rat, who inadvertently sets off the Ice Age in his attempts to bury an acorn. Though he doesn't ever encounter the intrepid band of mammoth, sloth, tiger and baby, Scrat punctuates the pilgrims' progress, providing both comic relief and breathing space.

* * *

SCRAT is the central character in "Ice Age's" hilarious trailers, but it is the sheer inventiveness and technical wizardry that piques the curiosity. "Ice Age" is an all-digital animated feature, and it astounds with its awesome effects. Director Chris Wedge has won an Academy Award for Best Animated Short Film, and in this full-length feature, he really goes to town with a computer application he helped develop that, it is claimed, "recreates the most subtle properties of natural and ambient light." Watch out for this application when the four sojourners fall into an ice tunnel, the animation capturing the ice's slick surface so accurately that one can almost feel its glacial smoothness.

But unlike a movie like "Final Fantasy" which boasts a rail-thin plot around which effects were to be showcased, it's a relief to discover that "Ice Age" does not rely on dazzling effects alone to reach its audience. It's also a movie with a heart, a sassy presence, side-splitting humor, adventure and even a moral lesson or two.

Of the human actors who give voice to this scrappy bunch of prehistoric travelers, John Leguizamo leaves his mark. His Sid is extremely hyperactive for a sloth, but it's the energy he gives the creature that really animates the film. Ray Romano conveys Manny's mordant, ironic view of life and this may be why he allows Leguizamo to run away with the movie. It's the interaction among the main characters, though, which holds one's attention, all in keeping with the tradition of the road movie.

* * *

WALKING out of the premiere of "Queen of the Damned," our nuclear family felt the generation gap quite keenly.

While the two young people were raving, the hubby and I just looked at each other, puzzled why the film left us cold. Especially because we were hooked by the first movie from Anne Rice's vampire saga, "Interview with a Vampire."

But where "Interview" drew the audience to its dense, fervid and fevered world, "Queen of the Damned" aroused only mild curiosity and even unintended humor. There is enough blood and gore to qualify it within the horror genre, but it's lackluster horror, serviceable with little bite.

One of the problems, I told my protesting children, was that Aaliyah, who plays Akasha the Egyptian "mother of all vampires," was simply too young for the role. She doesn't so much scare us as beguile us. Even in full vampire mode, writhing and twisting in all directions, one's eyes are on her sinuous waist and gleaming body, forgetting she is bent on devouring humanity.

The movie's biggest fault, for me, was that while "Interview" was ruled by the logic of Rice's lore, "Queen of the Damned" offers little by way of explaining why the characters act the way they do. It seems absurd that the great vampire Lestat would lure all the vampires walking the earth only so that he could play martial-arts games with them onstage. Watch only if you're obsessed with rock, young dead singers and anything that bears the trademark of Rice.

* * *

PERHAPS there's wisdom in the injunction against revisiting the past, or tinkering with your old movies. On the occasion of the 20th anniversary of "E.T.," which held the record of the highest grossing movie for over a decade, Steven Spielberg has released a reworked version, featuring previously excluded scenes and enhanced effects and music.

I looked forward to experiencing "E.T." again, remembering how thrilled I was by the effects and even moved to tears by the denouement.

Unfortunately, by the time I was seated in the dark of the theater and the film unfolded, I remembered, too, how slow it was in the beginning, and how difficult it was (yes, even the second time around) to make out what the creature was saying.

My daughter, who had not yet seen the movie, looked forward mainly to seeing the young Drew Barrymore. And seeing "E.T." again, I marveled at her natural ability and affinity with the camera. The movie still soars at the right spots, and brings back fond memories. But moviemaking has made giant strides in the two decades following its release, and in "E.T.'s" case, the wrinkles show.

Erap's dirge, Gloria's tear-jerker

PUBLIC LIVES

Randy David

ERAP complains that he has been singled out and offered as an exhibit by the ruling elite to show that justice works in this country and that wrongdoing will not go unpunished. He is being cast, he says, in the role of the proverbial big fish that will not get away.

They—big business, the media, the Church—are doing this, according to him, because they want to put him away so that he can no longer be a political threat. They could not stop his election to the presidency, he says, so they conspired to bring him down using people power. They could not tolerate him because he refused to do their bidding. Thrice they prodded him to go on voluntary exile, but he turned them down in the belief that his ouster was unconstitutional and that he should clear his name.

But how can he clear his name? A separate division of the Sandiganbayan, with handpicked judges, has been especially created to try him. His trial is being rushed so that he can be convicted before the 2004 election. Sure, he may appeal to the Supreme Court, but the members of the highest court had three times upheld the legality of his exit from the presidency and the succession of his vice president, Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo. How can he expect them to pronounce him innocent without putting in question the legitimacy of the present government?

It is a plausible story, and its appeal to the *masa* cannot be underestimated. However, it must be countered with reason, and not with those sentimental supplications and maudlin references to family values that President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's recent tear-jerkers on TV exemplify. The *masa* are not stupid; in the age of confessional television, they can tell a gimmick from a genuine act. Let's give them arguments, not mush.

Erap is hardly the underdog he portrays himself to be. He has hired the finest defense panel that money can buy. Two of his lawyers are former justices of the Supreme Court, one is a former senator, a number are professors of law and the rest are seasoned trial lawyers. They know their client's case intimately, and they are familiar with the political context in which it is entangled. They are very articulate and they can shift from the legal to the political terrain with ease.

It was the same group of lawyers that argued against the legitimacy of the Macapagal presidency and the constitutionality of the Anti-Plunder Law before the Supreme Court. In both instances, the Court ruled with finality against their client. If Erap thought that the Court was incapable of rendering justice because the partisan actions of the justices at Edsa II had compromised their sense of fairness, he should not have submitted himself to the its authority. From the very outset, he should have challenged the neutrality of the justices and the entire political regime whose birth they sanctified by their presence at the Edsa Shrine. The tribunal to resolve that challenge would have been the streets, not the Supreme Court.

Indeed a reckless attempt at a political resolution was made at Mendiola in May 2001. That rebellion was crushed. If the pro-Erap forces had prevailed at Mendiola, or if they had won a clear majority in the May elections, it is unlikely that Erap would be on trial today. His trial for plunder is a direct result of his political defeat. Erap's followers in the streets may continue to test the finality of their idol's downfall until they find a new hero. But Erap's friends in Congress must decide whether they want to be revolutionaries or public officials.

The trial of Erap must continue and come to a definite conclusion, with or without his cooperation. The venerable former Senate President Jovito Salonga has thoroughly explained why the Supreme Court had to create a special division of the Sandiganbayan to hear the cases against the former president. The work of two regular divisions of the Sandiganbayan previously assigned to handle the Erap cases had been hampered by the suspension of Presiding Justice Francis Garchitorena and the withdrawal of Justice Anacleto Badoy who went on sick leave. Some justices had also recused themselves for a variety of reasons. The Supreme Court was left with no choice but to create a special division and to rely on its collective wisdom in choosing the members of this division from the remaining justices.

Erap and his lawyers have accused this special division of extreme bias. The only way the public can know whether there is any basis for this accusation is by opening the trial to public viewing. Yet, Erap's lawyers have firmly opposed a public trial for their client. Let the nation see for itself how justice works in practice. A televised trial will not only be educational, it will also have an affirming effect on the efficacy of democracy as a way of life.

There are great risks involved, of course. Any perception of miscarriage of justice at any point in the trial may unleash another political upheaval, and this time, it could be violent and prolonged. But the risks are worth taking.

Our country finds itself again at a point where it can either move forward and embark on a new journey toward modern nationhood, or slink back to the opportunism of an uneasy truce between the old and the new. There is no justice in the latter, only endless compromise. No law, only politics. We cannot live like that and remain a nation.

* * *

Comments to rdavid@pacific.net.ph

A prescription for social amnesia

COMMENTARY

Reynaldo V. Guioguio, Ph.D.

THE CHANGES made by the Department of Education in the basic curricula in elementary and high schools come at a time when the country is reinventing itself for the challenges of the new century. The sad state of our educational system is a drag on Philippine development. The 2000 Philippine Human Development Report concluded:

"Most of what children learn in school are not applicable in their daily lives. Curriculum is overloaded and does not accommodate regional and cultural differences, leading to lack of focus and rote memorization. Language remains an issue. While the government has made an effort to indigenize knowledge through the use of Filipino as the medium of instruction, this is unsupported by qualified teachers and good teaching materials. Coupled with the deteriorating quality of English teaching, the situation has resulted in semilingualism and mediocrity."

Efforts at reforming our schools deserve our support and appreciation since they strike at the heart of this country's future: our children. Such initiatives for change must have broad understanding and inputs from various sectors of Philippine society, considering that education is far too important to be left to any single agency or office. It is for this reason that certain groups have voiced misgivings about the direction and content of the DepEd's curricular reforms.

The need for reforms has never been questioned. But the fact is that the changes being proposed have barely been understood and appreciated by the public at large. The reform agenda of the educational sector would have been an excellent opportunity to get our people involved in the educational issues affecting our children. There was this window of opportunity for mobilizing public support for educational reforms but this was not taken and was simply allowed to pass.

The lack of adequate public information and broad multisectoral consensus could be a key factor in the opposition expressed by certain sectors to the abolition of Social Studies or Araling Panlipunan (AP) in the proposed new elementary curriculum and its reconstitution under Sikap, a subject hybrid that includes Arts and Music, Health, Home Economics and Values Education. The new formulation of social science to be taught in the proposed elementary curriculum will be in the form of Sibika at Kultura for Grades 1 to 3 and Heograpiya/Kasaysayan/Sibika for Grades 4 to 6. The eventual share of social science in the new elementary curriculum will be two hours per week; a companion course on Good Manners and Right Conduct for Grades 1 to 6 also under the Sikap category will be taught for three hours weekly. Overall, social studies will have the smallest time allotment among the core subjects taught in the country's elementary schools in the future.

Would the reduction in teaching time for social studies affect our children? Or would their reduced exposure to social science make it more difficult for them to reach their full potentials as citizens and as inheritors of our democratic way of life? The Illinois State Learning Standards for Social Science, for example, cites the following content/skills that the subject offers:

1. Solving Problems: Students are being asked to analyze a variety of sources, glean information with which to make decisions and take action with realization of ensuing consequences.
2. Communicating: Students are being asked to study and interpret sources, draw conclusions and articulate their positions.
3. Using technology: Students are being asked to utilize the plethora of information available through increasingly available technology.

The nationally administered National Elementary Achievement Test and National Secondary Achievement Test done in the past excluded social studies for assessment, so we have no local data to compare our students with those of other countries. This omission may also explain the lack of a social science constituency within the DepEd that would have raised the alarm when the plans to reduce social studies in the elementary curriculum was first brought up. It is really quite unfortunate that no strong public advocacy for social science exists in the country so the DepEd is not entirely at fault here. The onus lies among the members of the social science community to bring into focus the role that social science education plays in shaping the future of Philippine society.

What is perhaps being ignored in the somewhat inordinate focus on mathematics and science teaching (a reflex reaction to the results of the Third International Mathematics and Science Test, ranking the Philippines second from the bottom in the mathematics category and third from the bottom in the science category) is the problem of citizen formation at the point in our children's lives when they are most receptive and adaptable. Reducing the contact time for social science leaves a vacuum that later efforts at public involvement and social mobilization may find hard to fill.

In the United States, History and Geography are up there among the subjects for primary kids together with English, Math and Science. American scholastic achievements in the primary grades in both science and math come from investments in well-trained teachers and effective teaching materials, not from the reduction of social science content in their curricula.

In the Philippines, Miriam College Grade School provides equal learning exposure to Araling Panlipunan or Social Studies as Math and Science with nary a difference in its academic performance. It has one of the highest, if not the highest, number of elementary graduates qualifying for entrance to the Philippine Science High School each year.

The call is for better social science teaching and not less particularly in the elementary grades where citizen formation should occur and not later. Considering the hard reality that one-third of all students enrolled in Grade 1 drops out before reaching high school, cutting down on their social science exposure in their elementary years makes them ill-prepared to face up to their roles and responsibilities as citizens. Society shirks its responsibility to the young when it allows this tragic situation to happen.

This means that the DepEd should go slow with its plan to implement the new elementary curriculum involving a reduction in social science or social studies content. Adequate measures must be taken so that well-trained teachers and better educational materials are available for teaching social science subjects. It may be possible to make the most of our limited teaching time by making every opportunity count. The issue that needs to be resolved is what kind of quality time for social science our schools can provide so that every student gets his or her fair share of the basic right to an adequate education. The bottom line is that the new social studies being proposed must be made acceptable in both form and substance if we are to realize its benefits to our children and future generations of Filipino citizens.

Reynaldo V. Guioguio, Ph.D. is president of the Philippines Communications Society

Please send feedback to opinion@inquirer.com.ph

TALK OF THE TOWN

Editor Juan V. Sarmiento Jr.

Used car imports: Boon or bane?

THE INFLUX of imported second-hand vehicles into the country via the Subic Freeport has prompted the American and Japanese chambers of commerce to call on Malacañang to stop the trade.

They claim that each used car imported into the country displaces one locally manufactured vehicle.Terry J. Emrick, president of Ford Motor Co. Philippines, notes that Thailand, Indonesia and Malaysia have vibrant car markets because of their ban on used car imports.

In the country, demand for brand new commercial vehicles is depressed because of the popularity of second-hand sports utility vehicles, pickup trucks and vans, according to the Chamber of Automotive Manufacturers of the Philippines Inc.

The Motor Vehicles Importers Association of Subic Bay Freeport Inc. (MVIA) says that it is just providing consumers with affordable vehicles that the assemblers cannot offer. It warns that stopping the business will raise the cost of transportation and prices of basic goods.

For now, Malacañang appears to be heeding the assemblers' call. The Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) has vowed to stop the importation of used vehicles while the Land Transportation Office has announced that it will stop registering them. The MVIA says it will resist moves to curtail its business.

GO
STOP
StephB

ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO PAGE DESIGN: ERNIE SAMBO

Importers offer consumers affordable vehicles

By Eduardo Baretto
President, Motor Vehicles Importers Association of Subic Bay Freeport Inc.

IMPORTING used trucks and other motor vehicles into the country and auctioning them off have come under attack from assemblers and manufacturers. But auction is just another form of marketing being practiced in countries such as the United Sates, Japan, Saudi Arabia, Germany and the Netherlands.

The unreserved auction system, which was introduced into the country as early as 1995 but was popularized in 1999, challenges the old truck trading system in order to give buyers better choices and more value for their money. Through auctions, clients pick out the items and name the price, paving the way for a buyer's market. This is unlike the traditional system in which dealers and sellers name their price and buyers negotiate.

In auctions, buyers only acquire items that they can afford. Auctioneers don't peg a minimum price. Buyers are not forced to enter into some "financing scheme" in order to buy an item. And as soon as they pay for an item, they can bring it home. If one's budget for a truck is only P100,000, the auction system allows him to buy one at that price.

Commission

How is this possible? The auction process shortens the marketing and distribution chain by doing away with importers, dealers, retailers and agents, cutting the commissions collected at each level. On the average, the markups are as follows: importer, 15 percent; dealer, 15 percent; retailer, 15 percent; and, agent, 10 percent. No wonder buyers at the auction come from all walks of life. Since the market is not limited to the Philippines, we even had some buyers who exported their purchases to Vietnam, Singapore and Guam.

Secondly, the auction companies accomplish what traditional dealers cannot—offer the public a variety of items from the rare-to-find CAT D9 bulldozer, to the popular Isuzu Elf dropside, to the 10-wheel concrete pump truck, to 4x4 farm tractors, down to 400 KVA gensets. The auction becomes one giant "department store" for all sorts of construction equipment, trucks and other miscellaneous items. Even the lowly farmer is given an equal chance to buy what he needs along with the richest *hacendero* from Bacolod.

Further, because of the volume, auctioneers are able to get substantial discounts on freight cost. They are able to charter vessels, which bring the stocks to the ports of Subic and Manila.

Lower transport cost

If the importation and auction of used trucks were to be stopped, the most immediate and visible effect would be the skyrocketing of the cost of transporting goods and services, and higher construction cost of government and private projects. Eventually, it will lead to an increase in the price of basic commodities.

Let's face it. The need for trucks and equipment in the country is still huge because of the level of infrastructure development and topography.

It has been reported that there is a huge scarcity of fire trucks in the country. President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo said a huge chunk of the budget would have to be devoted to this because a firetruck costs P2.5 million. In the auctions, some local government units were able to acquire a 10-ton Nissan firetruck for only P500,000.

Our auctions allow buyers to purchase trucks and equipment of good quality at prices that are 500 percent to 1,000 percent lower than the cost of brand new units. If the auctions were to be scrapped, given the very low disposable income of Filipinos, how can an ordinary hauling company afford to invest in a brand new dump truck at P7 million? How many years will it be able to recover that money if transporting one truckload of sand from Pampanga to Manila costs P2,100? Logically, in order to survive, it will pass on the cost to end-users.

Legal

The auction business was conceptualized bearing in mind all government and legal guidelines. The charter of the Subic Freeport was thoroughly examined and discussed with lawyers.

We succeeded in inviting foreigners to join us in the venture because, like us, they saw the potential of the business not just in terms of profitability but in terms of spurring development of the country.

Essentially, our position is in line with the Trade Liberalization Law and the Foreign Investment Act which, among other things, emphasize the free flow of goods and services in the global market. If local assemblers/manufacturers are adversely affected as a result of our undertaking, it is because they cannot fully meet the needs of the market—not to mention their uncompetitive prices. It is unfair to blame importers and auctioneers whose objective is to provide consumers with a wider selection of products at prices they can afford.

We cannot, however, blame the assemblers and manufacturers as the prices of their products are high because of the high excise taxes being levied by the government.

Fair treatment dictates that the laws be examined and not the groups which are going to benefit from them.

Rigid screening

Contrary to what some people think, items coming in through Subic go through a rigid screening process—from importation to the subsequent exit of the cargo from the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority. The SBMA regularly monitors the quality and roadworthiness of these imported motor vehicles through its Locator Registration and Licensing Department and Motor Vehicle Registration Office.

All the vehicles imported are subject to careful scrutiny by the Land Transportation Office, through its Motor Vehicle Inspection Section, which conducts an emission control inspection and a headlight alignment test. The MVIS also examines the conversion from right-hand to left-hand drive and assesses the importers' compliance with safety standards.

Our association has also taken the initiative to coordinate with the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority so that it can certify our mechanics. We believe that this will be instrumental in having standard criteria for ensuring the roadworthiness of second-hand motor vehicles.

By engaging in the trading of used motor vehicles, our foremost desire is to provide the majority affordable trucks and other vehicles for their business and personal use. This vision is in line with the President's pro-poor campaign.

Second-hand car imports hurt manufacturers

By Terry J. Emrick
President, American Chamber of Commerce, and
Shoichi Kameyama
President, Japanese Chamber of Commerce and Industry

THE AUTOMOTIVE industry is a leader in industrial development and job creation in the Philippines. Fifteen automotive manufacturers in the country produce more than 100 different models of world-class vehicles, and last year manufactured more than 70,000 vehicles.

Manufacturers, parts suppliers and dealers employ more than 60,000 people. The industry has consistently generated strong export growth for the country, with parts and components exports in 2000 reaching more than $1.1 billion, with the first exports of built-up vehicles commencing this month to the Asean Free Trade Area.

Today, the automotive industry faces many unique challenges. While every other market in Asean has produced impressive growth over the last five years (with some well on their way to pre-crisis levels), the Philippine market remains the only one that has not shown signs of recovery. Indeed, the industry in 2001 was down 53 percent from its peak in 1996. A strong and vibrant domestic industry is a critical foundation upon which to build a base for strong export growth, so it is vital that all available measures be taken to grow the domestic market.

One area of great concern to the industry is the explosion of used car auctions in Subic, Malinta and Valenzuela. Put simply, used car imports and the development of a domestic industry are incompatible and cannot viably co-exist. Each used car imported into the Philippines displaces one locally manufactured product, and risks turning the Philippines into a dumping ground for used vehicles from other markets.

The experience of other governments has demonstrated, time and time again, the incompatibility between used car imports and the growth of a domestic manufacturing industry. In New Zealand, for example, the introduction of used car imports led directly to the departure of every manufacturer in the country. When used vehicle imports were permitted into New Zealand, employment in the auto industry fell by 80 percent and new vehicle sales fell by 66 percent. Today, no vehicles are produced in New Zealand, and as a result New Zealand suffers from a heavily negative automotive trade balance.

Other Asean countries keen on the development of their industries have maintained strict bans on used vehicle imports. Used car imports are banned/non-existent in Thailand, Indonesia and Malaysia, the three most vibrant car markets in the region. It has clearly been recognized as an important issue by other developing countries as well. Mexico and China both maintained a complete ban on used vehicle imports even as they joined the World Trade Organization in order to allow their domestic industries to grow.

Safety concerns

In addition to the dire consequences posed to the automotive industry, used car imports pose an important health and safety concern to the public. Many of these cars are converted from right-hand drive to left-hand drive in the most rudimentary manner possible, with attendant consequences on safety and drivability. These vehicles also do not meet the requirements of the Clean Air Act and therefore, pose a serious threat to the environment, especially as their numbers increase.

Finally, after-sales service and warranty availability for these vehicles are highly questionable, and consumers who think they are receiving a good deal on imported used vehicles often end up with higher costs of ownership than owners of new vehicles.

We hope that you will give serious consideration to this issue as it poses a dramatic threat to the survival of the automotive industry in the Philippines. Our chambers would be happy to work with proper officials at the Department of Trade and Industry or the Bureau of Customs to answer questions and develop legal mechanisms to end this damaging practice. Time is of the essence as these auctions are growing every day and we look forward to a favorable response soon. *(Letter to President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo)*

Only balikbayan can import old cars

By Alex Loinaz
DTI consultant on road vehicle safety and emissions

THE PAST three years saw the influx of vehicles sold through the auctions. These are now being driven on our roads. Most of these vehicles come from Japan where only right-hand drive (RHD) vehicles are sold for domestic use. They arrive here as RHDs and are converted to left-hand drive inside and outside the Subic Freeport.

Because Republic Act 8506 prohibits the importation of RHDs, all RHD vehicles must be converted into LHDs before these can be imported into the country.

The auctioneers contravene the very essence of the government's vehicle program. The Motor Vehicle Development Program's guidelines, Memorandum Order No. 346, only allows the importation of new passenger cars. Under Executive Order 248 of the Motor Vehicle Program, only *balikbayan*, returning residents, or migrants can import used cars with certain restrictions.

At the second hearing of the House committee on transportation, Rep. Herlin Abayon, author of House Resolution 316 that seeks to investigate the auctions, said he had been to several shops outside of the Subic Freeport where these conversions were being done. RHD vehicles are transported in container vans from the Freeport to these shops for conversion. These are then distributed to auctioneers in Bulacan.

Emission standards

The importation guidelines of the Inter-Agency Committee on Used Trucks and Engines (IACUTE) only allows the importation of LHD completely built up trucks, buses and special purpose vehicles. The country of origin must properly issue them with certificates of roadworthiness and certificates of compliance which state the acceptable level of emissions at the time of exportation.

The implementing rules of the Clean Air Act also require a certificate of emission compliance duly authenticated by the Philippine Embassy/Consulate from the country of origin. Without this, the Department of Transportation and Communication cannot issue a certificate of compliance with emission standards. However, this requirement is not included in a memorandum issued by the DOTC to the Land Transportation Office as part of the required documentation before vehicles can be registered.

Authorities in Japan issue roadworthiness and emission certificates only after the vehicles had gone through the Motor Vehicle Inspection System (MVIS).

If a vehicle is converted into an LHD before the inspection, the Japanese LTO requires the presence of an inspector to ensure that the engineering work plans are complied with in accordance with the manufacturer's specifications, including the replacement of all affected components with original parts. Only then can the LHD vehicle go through the MVIS and be certified as having complied with both roadworthiness and emission standards. The absence of any of these certificates is penalized for violation of the rules of the Clean Air Act and the IACUTE.

The Board of Investment's Investment Priority Program of 1997 calls for the establishment of Stationary and Mobile Facilities for Emission Testing, preferably with rehabilitation capabilities. This program is open to all, including auctioneers. This way, a level-playing field is created for all participants in the motor vehicle industry. The program ensures a high quality of standard for used vehicles for the safety and protection of the consumer and the environment.

The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

US wants 'complete' Israel pullout

FORT BRAGG, North Carolina—The United States on Friday hailed Israel's withdrawal from urban areas in the Palestinian territories as "a positive development" but demanded "a complete withdrawal" from the West Bank and Gaza.

"The Israelis have moved back some of their troops. That's a positive development," President George W. Bush said at Fort Bragg, home to US special forces who have played a key role in the Afghanistan campaign.

In Washington, state department spokesperson Richard Boucher said a total Israeli withdrawal "would greatly facilitate" US special Middle East envoy Anthony Zinni's efforts to revive the ailing peace process.

"We do expect a complete withdrawal from Palestinian controlled areas, including Ramallah and the other areas, that the Israeli Defense Force has recently entered," Boucher said.

"Such a withdrawal would greatly facilitate the work of General Zinni," said Boucher. "That's what we want to see, that is the kind of step we've been urging them to take."

Bush said he had not spoken to the retired Marine general since his arrival in the region on Thursday but declared himself optimistic that his mission will succeed, saying: "If I wasn't hopeful I wouldn't have sent him."

After separate face-to-face encounters with Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon and Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, Zinni told reporters: "All of the meetings were extremely positive."

"Everyone is committed to get out of this situation," Zinni said, apparently referring to the 18-month cycle of violence that has claimed more than 1,500 lives.

Ahead of Zinni's arrival, Sharon ordered the Army to begin withdrawing from Ramallah, but soon after the Israeli Army announced it had killed a Palestinian militant in a helicopter strike in the West Bank.

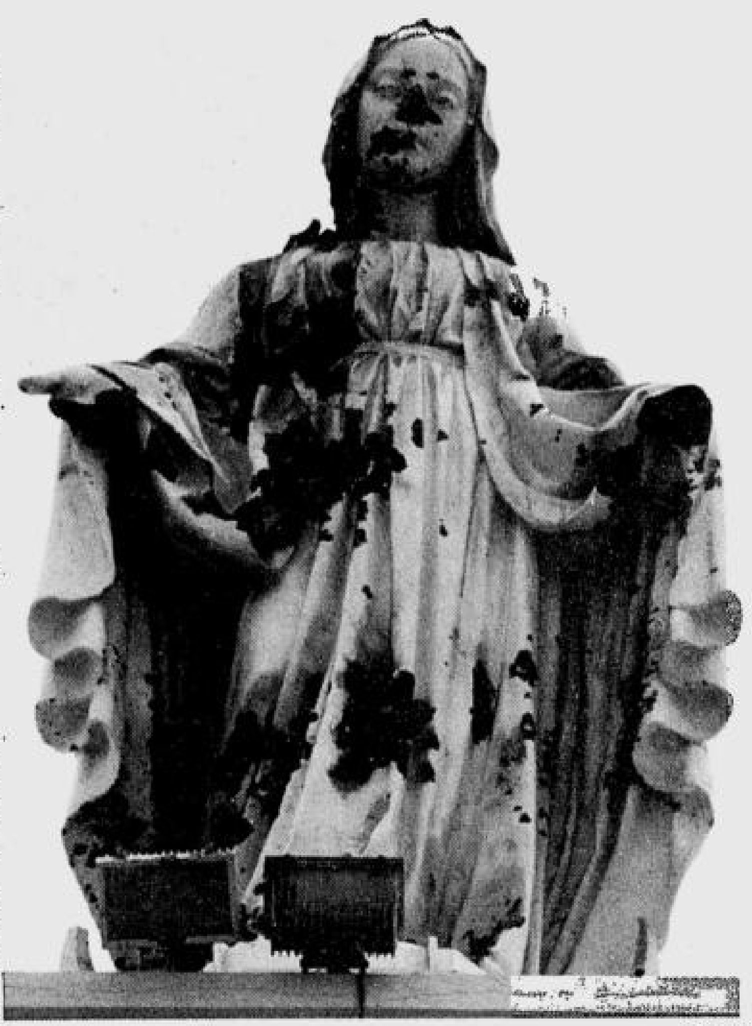
Boucher said Washington had taken note of Sharon's decision to redeploy Israeli forces in Ramallah, but stressed that the United States wanted a "complete withdrawal" from all the Palestinian areas.

In addition, he called for Yasser Arafat to continue to take steps to rein in the anti-Israeli violence that prompted Sharon to launch the largest military campaign in the Palestinian territories since capturing the land in the 1967 Middle East war.

"We want to see him do more to stop the groups that carry out violence and carry out the bombing, the shootings and the other attacks that we have been seeing recently," Boucher said of Arafat.

"We remain deeply concerned about the tragic loss of life and the escalating violence in the last days. Both sides need to take immediate steps to create an environment in which progress is possible," he added.

Zinni's peace mission, coming after 11 new deaths Thursday, followed passage late Tuesday of a UN Security Council resolution sponsored by Washington that for the first time mentioned a Palestinian state. ***AFP***



REUTERS

A 120-YEAR-old statue of the Virgin Mary standing at the French Hospital in Bethlehem became a casualty of war when it was badly hit by Israeli fire on March 14. For hours on Thursday the Holy Family Hospital was caught in the middle of a gun battle between Israeli tanks and snipers on one side, and Palestinian gunmen up a hill behind the hospital on the other, nurses said.

3 killed as Hindus, Muslims clash anew in riot-torn Gujarat

AHMEDABAD, India—Three men were killed in fresh Hindu-Muslim clashes as mobs set shops on fire and attacked mosques in India's riot-torn Gujarat state, police said on Saturday.

The latest religious violence started on Friday evening after hardline Hindus held a prayer ceremony near the site of a razed mosque in the holy town Ayodhya in northern India as a prelude to the building of a temple dedicated to Hindu god-king Rama on the controversial site.

Two Muslim men were shot dead overnight in separate incidents when police opened fire to disperse clashing Hindus and Muslims in Dudeshwar and Daryapur areas of Ahmedabad city, police said.

A 20-year-old Hindu man was stabbed to death and his father wounded when they were attacked by unidentified assailants late on Friday as soldiers patrolled the streets and curfew was imposed in three areas, they said.

"Things are under control this morning," police official C.B. Deshpal said.

Ahmedabad, Gujarat's main city, was at the center of religious violence which erupted on Feb. 27 when 58 Hindus were killed on a train in the state, triggering reprisals in which 678 people, mostly Muslims, were burned or hacked to death.

Deshpal said violence was also reported from Bharuch town where mobs damaged minarets of a mosque and groups of Hindus and Muslims pelted stones at each other late on Friday.

In Baroda city, south of Ahmedabad, an indefinite curfew was imposed in six areas and the army patrolled the streets after Friday's incidents of arson and stone throwing.

Baroda's police commissioner D.D. Tuteja said the violence was quelled by midnight after police fired in the air and arrested over 100 rioters. ***Reuters***

Latest US missile shield test a success

WASHINGTON—The latest and most challenging test in a US missile defense program was successful on Friday when a projectile weapon destroyed a mock warhead in space over the Pacific Ocean after accurately choosing the target over three decoys, the Pentagon said.

"Tonight's test is a major step in our aggressive developmental test program," the Pentagon said in a statement.

Out of six tests since 1999, it was the fourth to be successful in US efforts to develop a shield against a missile attack from potentially hostile states such as North Korea, Iran and Iraq.

Russia and China oppose the planned US missile shield, saying it could lead to an arms race to overcome new defenses.

"We will continue to pursue this testing regime to achieve a layered approach to missile defense, using different architectures to deter the growing threat of ballistic missiles carrying weapons of mass destruction," the Pentagon said.

At a cost of more than $100 million, Friday's test for the first time deployed three inflated balloons in space to see if a test weapon could be diverted from tracking and colliding with a dummy warhead launched westward over the ocean from California. Previous tests had used one decoy balloon.

At 9:41 p.m. EST (10:41 a.m. Saturday in Manila) a projectile weapon fired from Kwajalein Atoll in the Pacific intercepted and destroyed a mock warhead launched from Vandenberg Air Force Base in California, about 7,700 km away, defense department spokesperson Cheryl Irwin said.

The Pentagon plans to begin later this year a more robust testing program, which it said has been slowed by the 1972 anti-ballistic missile (ABM) treaty drawn up between the United States and the former Soviet Union.

President George W. Bush on Dec. 13 gave Moscow formal six-months notice that the United States was withdrawing from the treaty in order to press ahead with more advanced testing that would have violated it. ***Reuters***

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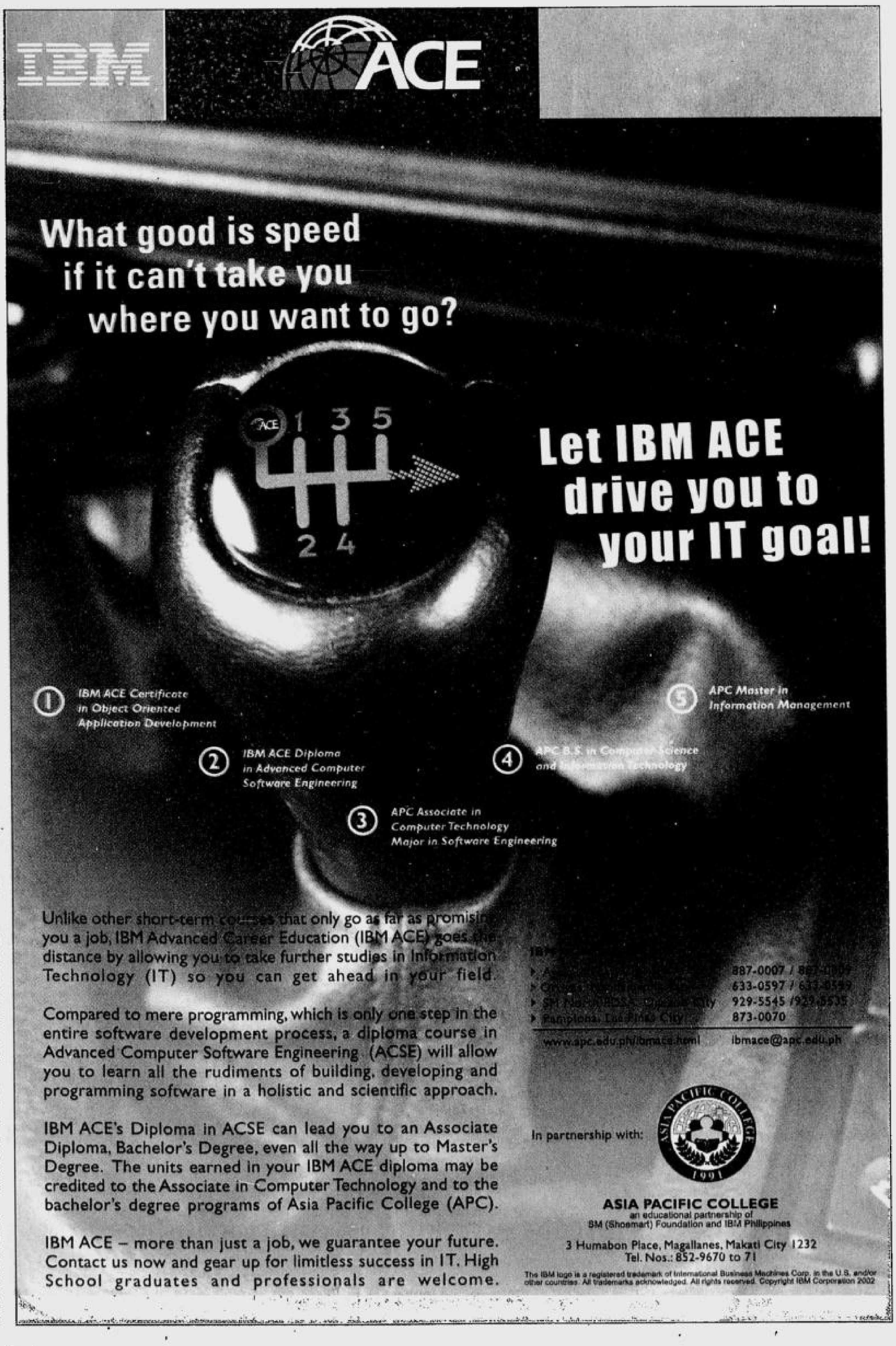

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Pentagon says strike which killed 6 Afghan women, kids was correct

WASHINGTON—Women and children made up nearly half the 15 people killed and injured when US jets bombed a vehicle of suspected al-Qaida fighters in eastern Afghanistan early this month, but the US defense department stands by the strike.

"The target was developed . . . with the best intelligence that we had at hand," said Marine Gen. Peter Pace, vice chair of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. "That appeared to be then, and in retrospect still appears to have been, a correct target."

Secretary of Defense Donald H. Rumsfeld said the decision not to release the information for six days was correct.

Pace told a Pentagon press conference that eight men, three women and three children were killed—and a fourth child injured—in the March 6 attack on a vehicle spotted leaving what officials described as a compound known to be used by al-Qaida members. It was near Shikin, in Paktia province, near the Pakistan border.

The injured child was taken to a US military hospital.

"The belief at the time of the strike was that the men were al-Qaida/Taliban, and that is still the current understanding," Pace said.

The presence of the women and children wasn't known until afterward, Pace said.

The strike occurred as some 2,000 US and allied forces sought out al-Qaida and Taliban militias holed up in a 60 sq. m. area of the province.

On March 4, two days after the ground assault began, Rumsfeld suggested it was possible family members were with the fighters in the area.

"There may very well be noncombatants with them who are family members or supporters of some kind," Rumsfeld said.

Asked Friday why officials took nearly a week to release word of the incident, Rumsfeld said they had to first look into it.

"The first thing one wants to do is determine what actually happened," he said. "There's a conflict going on. There are people fighting. And people are busy."

He has said before that first reports are often wrong and so putting out information immediately after an event can mislead people.

"If you take a pause, try to figure out what took place, and do it properly then you have fewer things you have to correct later," he said Friday.

The Pentagon has sought throughout the war in Afghanistan to counter allegations from the Taliban and some others in Afghanistan that innocent civilians have been victimized in the bombing. US officials have repeatedly said they take special precautions to minimize civilian casualties. **AP**

FORMER Taiwan politician Chu Mei-feng performs on stage during her singing debut in Singapore March 15. REUTERS

Taiwan pol in sex mess croons in Singapore

SINGAPORE—A former Taiwan politician embroiled in a gripping sex scandal launched her singing debut in Singapore to an enthusiastic middle-aged audience late on Friday.

The 35-year old TV-reporter turned politician Chu Mei-feng became one of the best known women in the Chinese-speaking world after a Taiwan tabloid magazine gave away a secretly taped video of her having sex with a married lover in December.

Pirated copies of the video made their way across the globe.

Chu, clad in a somber black gown and a fanciful mask held to her face, was the final act in an all male line-up spiced with scantily clad dancers.

She belted out an old favorite by the late Taiwanese crooner Teresa Teng and four other songs to a nearly full auditorium.

"I came to see her because I was curious," 30-year old self-employed Jonas Pang said after the show. "I expected her not to be able to sing but she's really very good. I'm very satisfied."

Getting Friday night's show on the road in Singapore, with its squeaky clean image and hardline toward pornography, was not easy.

The concert got the green light only after organizers put up a $10,000 bond which they stood to lose if they had so much as mentioned the controversial video.

"Its very important to hold onto every moment that I live and it's a very precious experience for me to be here," she said. Flower bouquets filled Chu's arms after the show as enthusiastic applause flowed from an appreciative audience.

Chu said she was gripped by stage fright, although she appeared cool and composed on stage. ***Reuters***

EU considers more sanctions for Zimbabwe

HARARE—The European Union was set to issue a strong statement on Zimbabwe on Saturday after its controversial presidential election and was considering tightening sanctions on President Robert Mugabe.

The West has slammed the poll and the EU move would deepen the southern African state's isolation on the world stage.

In another move sure to provoke further Western condemnation, Mugabe on Friday enacted a controversial media law criticized as aimed at muzzling the press.

But several African nations have given the March 9-11 poll their seal of approval, signaling a rift between the world's poorest continent and the developed world it is looking to for further aid and investment.

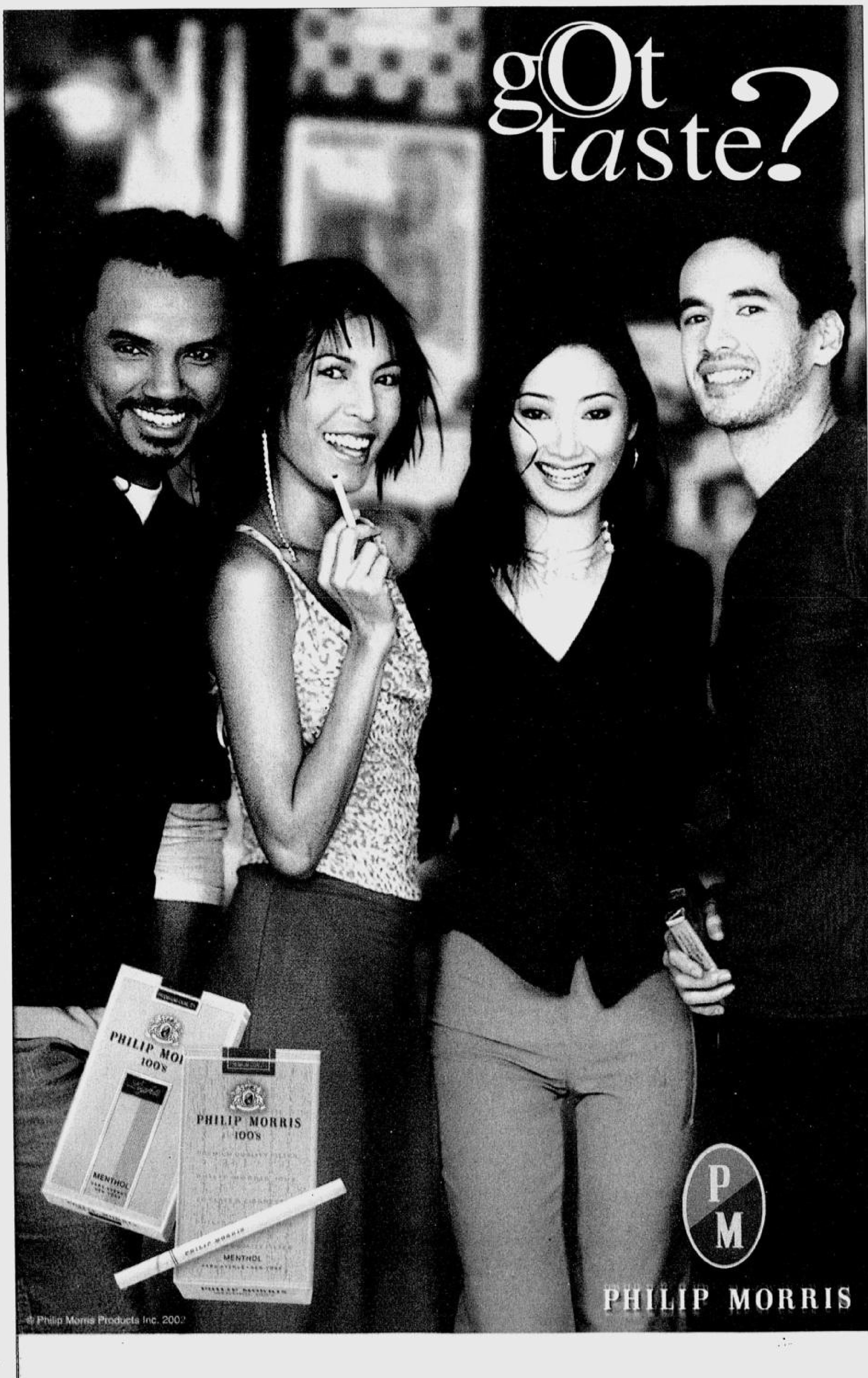
Britain's Minister for Europe, Peter Hain, told reporters at an EU summit in Barcelona that a communiqué agreed by all 15 heads of government in the bloc would say: "Elections in Zimbabwe cannot be accepted as free or fair."

The EU's foreign ministers would consider "additional targeted measures" when they next met in April, Hain said. He gave no further details.

Britain has led the international criticism of its former colony and Mugabe, who was once widely hailed for leading the struggle against white-minority rule in the former Rhodesia.

In power since 1980, Mugabe extended his rule for another six years against the backdrop of a collapsing economy and acute food shortages in a violence-marred election.

The country has been plunged into crisis since Mugabe sanctioned invasions of white-owned farms two years ago. His government says it will redistribute the land to poor rural blacks to rectify the legacy of colonial imbalances. ***Reuters***



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Deal ends Africa's longest war

LUANDA—The Angolan Army and Unita rebel leaders agreed Friday to end Africa's longest-running conflict, less than three weeks after the death of the man who launched the rebellion in 1975, Jonas Savimbi, the two sides announced in a joint statement.

It said the agreement was reached during a meeting attended by military officials and Unita leaders in the village of Cassamba in Moxico, the eastern province where Savimbi was killed.

"On March 15, the first official meeting between the armed forces of Angola and National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (Unita) took place in Cassamba" and led to "the end of hostilities in the country," said the statement, released by the Angolan presidency.

Angola's government late Wednesday had ordered its forces to halt attacks on Unita rebels as of Thursday, and said it was prepared to offer an amnesty to rebel fighters.

The government indicated the move was aimed at establishing a dialogue with Unita with the ultimate goal of achieving a definitive ceasefire.

Friday's announcement gave no indication when or where a formal ceasefire agreement may be signed.

The meeting was attended by the deputy chief of staff of the armed forces, Gen. Geraldo Nunda, and the commander of Unita forces, Abreu Kamorteiro.

Government sources said it lasted about four hours and the two sides agreed to meet again on Monday in the Moxico capital of Lwena.

Kamorteiro decided to base himself in Lwena to help implement a ceasefire and Unita's demilitarization, something the Army pledged to facilitate, the sources said.

Civil war has raged virtually non-stop in Angola since its independence from Portugal in 1975.

The most conservative estimates say more than 500,000 people have died in the civil war, which followed a 14-year independence war against Portugal, and more than one-third of the nation's 12 million people have been displaced. **AFP**

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FOUR of the five Yates children (left to right) Luke, Paul, John and Noah, drowned by their mother, Andrea Yates, smile in a family photo released June 21, 2001. REUTERS

Texas mother draws life for drowning her 5 kids

HOUSTON—A Texas jury sentenced Andrea Yates to life in prison on Friday for drowning her five children while she was deeply psychotic, sparing her from death by lethal injection after a stunningly swift 35 minutes of deliberations.

The sentence means Yates, 37, must serve at least 40 years behind bars before being eligible for parole. The only other punishment option under tough Texas laws was the death penalty. Even the prosecution was split on seeking the death penalty, with one prosecutor saying the facts and evidence of the case did not merit asking jurors to impose it.

Yates, a former nurse and high school valedictorian, was convicted by the same jury of methodically drowning her children—Noah, 7, John, 5, Paul, 3, Luke, 2, and Mary, six months—in the family bathtub on June 20, 2001.

She said she killed them to save them from the devil and pleaded not guilty by reason of insanity. Mental health experts said Yates was profoundly psychotic at the time of the crime.

The case became the focal point of a national debate on the treatment, both legal and medical, of the mentally ill and once again put the spotlight on harsh Texas justice.

Husband Rusty Yates, who urged treatment not punishment for his wife, said it was a bittersweet day that never should have come.

"I believe in Andrea. She is the kindest, sweetest, most gentle person I have ever met, but she is a victim here, not only of the medical community, but the legal system," he told reporters.

"How could she have been so ill and the medical community not treat her?"

In a reflection of the mixed feelings provoked by the case, lead prosecutor Joe Owmby told the jury in closing arguments that Yates should receive a life sentence, while prosecution partner Kaylynn Williford called for the death penalty.

"I did not think the facts and the evidence warranted me recommending a death sentence in this case," Owmby said. ***Reuters***

Life sentence urged for Kurd in 'honor slay'

UPPSALA, Sweden—A Swedish prosecutor called Friday for a life sentence to be handed down against a Kurd living in Sweden who confessed to killing his 26-year-old daughter because she was dating a Swedish man.

Prosecutor Anne Sjoeblom called for the maximum sentence on the closing day of a trial against Rahmi Sahindal, who testified that he shot his daughter Fadime in her sister's apartment in Uppsala, 70 km north of Stockholm, on the evening of Jan. 21.

Rahmi Sahindal, 56, told the court he shot Fadime, who was well-known in Sweden for her campaign against such crimes, because she had dishonored the family by having a romantic relationship with a Swede rather than a Kurd.

"She ruined my life. She insulted me, that is why I shot her," he said, pleading guilty to murder.

But he denied it was an "honor killing."

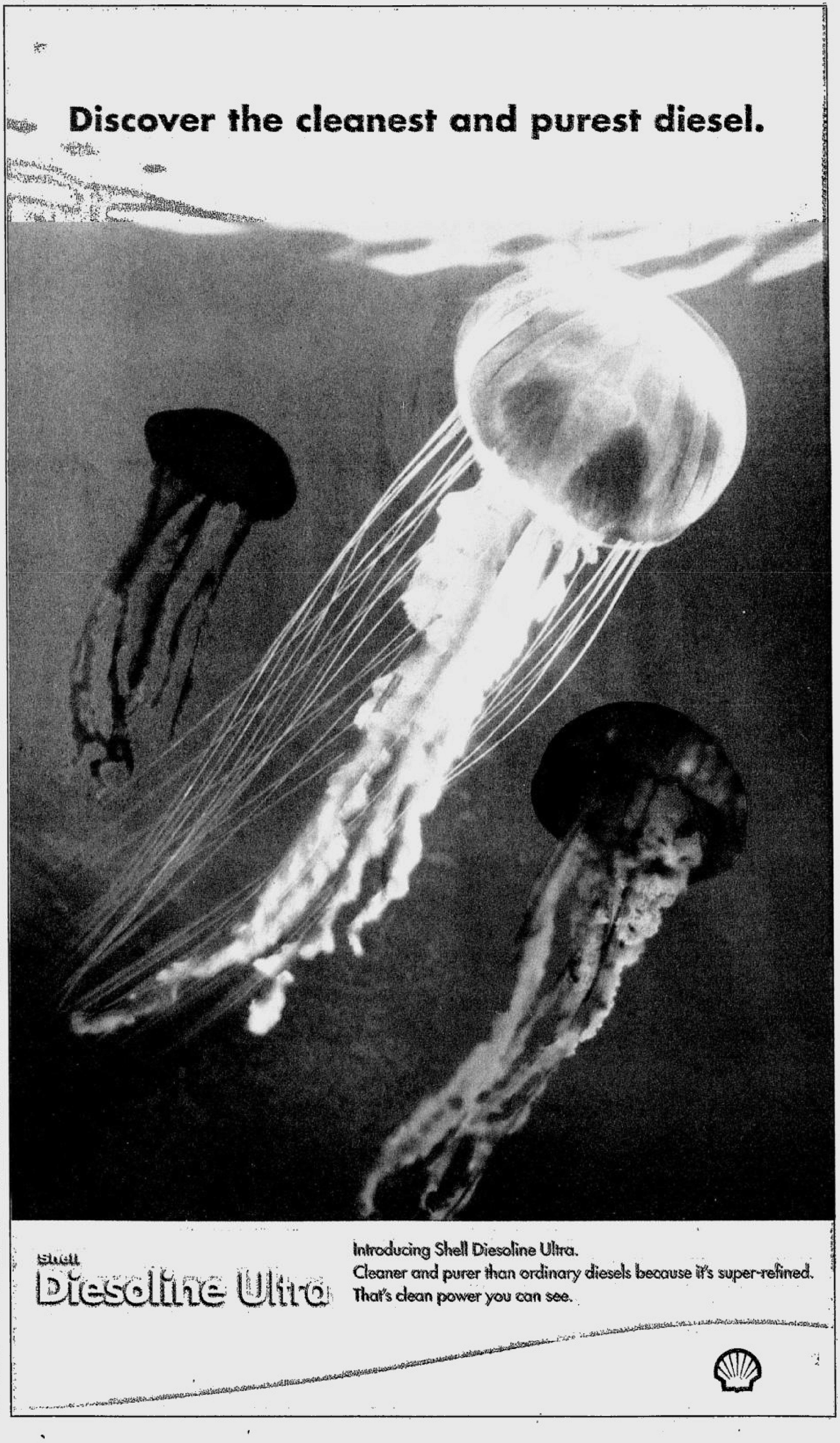
"I was sick when I shot and I had been drinking alcohol," he argued.

The prosecutor called the slaying an "outright execution," and said technical evidence supported both Rahmi Sahindal's confession and the eye-witness testimony of Fadime's younger sister.

"I'm sure he'll be convicted," Sjoeblom told Swedish news agency TT.

The verdict is due to be announced on April 3.

The trial, which opened on Tuesday, was due to last only two days but was suspended Wednesday after an unidentified male relative suddenly claimed responsibility for the killing. ***AFP***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Ex-CBCP president hits, praises Loi

Is Erap on trial for doing good or for suspicious actions? prelate asks

By Yolanda Fuertes
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

DAGUPAN CITY—Archbishop Oscar Cruz of the Lingayen-Dagupan diocese advised Sen. Luisa "Loi" Estrada to ask herself why her husband, deposed President Joseph Estrada, and her son, former San Juan mayor Jinggoy Estrada, are under trial for plunder and other cases.

Cruz, former president of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines, said Senator Estrada "should not feel so hurt or so sad" because her husband and son are undergoing trial.

"The cases were just a continuation of their past actions, not nobody else's actions," he said.

Cruz issued the "advice" after Senator Estrada, in a privileged speech, claimed that the Supreme Court has prejudged the former president's case.

"How come Erap and Jinggoy are on trial? Is it for doing good or is it because of very suspicious actions on their part? The alleged crimes (they were accused of) were not started by the people manning the justice system. They (Erap and Jinggoy) started it and the filing of cases was just the continuation," he said.

Cruz, however, has good words for the former first lady for sticking to her husband despite his alleged womanizing ways.

"I admire her for her fidelity to her husband. When Estrada was having women left and right and siring children here and there, she stuck with him. She deserves a big medal for conjugal fidelity," Cruz said.

But not for the former president whom Cruz described as a "poor fellow who is drowning" but who, he said, still comes up with brilliant political moves to his advantage.

"Firing his lawyers has nothing to do with justice or fair play. Firing his lawyers after he admitted using the name Jose Velarde, was a brilliant political move to get the sympathy of the people, initiate a mass movement and a moral pressure to President Macapagal-Arroyo to let him go to the United States," Cruz said.

But he said Estrada's attack on the justice system was understandable because "if one has a feeling that the truth is coming out and the accusations could be proven, one begins to have resentment toward the justice system."

"No convicted criminal ever said he was judged fairly. At the Death Row, 99.99 percent of death convicts claim to be innocent of the crimes they are accused of," he said.

However, Cruz was not amenable to granting Estrada's request for an exile.

"Where is our sense of justice if Estrada, who is accused of manifold big crimes, will be allowed to leave for purposes of health? I wonder what other people who are accused of lesser crimes do? Besides, the medical procedure he wants abroad is available here," the bishop said.

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Extreme Northern Luzon and Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and isolated thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to at times cloudy with isolated rainshowers. source: **pagasa**

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	HI33° Lo 22°
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	HI 25° Lo 16°
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	HI 33° Lo 20°
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	HI 33° Lo 22°
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	HI 33° Lo 21°
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	HI 31° Lo 21°
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	HI 31° Lo 24°
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	HI 31° Lo 21°
Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy	HI 33° Lo 23°
Roxas	Partly Cloudy	HI 32° Lo 26°
Cebu	Partly Cloudy	HI 32° Lo 24°
Tacloban	Partly Cloudy	HI 33° Lo 24°
Gen. Santos	Mostly Cloudy	HI 32° Lo 24°
Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy	HI 33° Lo 24°
Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy	HI 31° Lo 24°
Davao	Partly Cloudy	HI 31° Lo 24°

Compiled by: Armin P. Adina, PDI Research/03/17/02

Dumaguete City port officials break up strike

By Alex V. Pal
PDI Visayas Bureau

DUMAGUETE CITY—After three days of exercising maximum restraint, port officials on Friday dispersed striking workers of Cipres Stevedoring and Arrastre Inc. (Cisai) who had laid picketlines at the entrance and exit gates of the port area.

The strikers, under tight watch by policemen, were relegated to the sidelines as trucks brought out cargo that had been stuck inside the port for three days.

Philippine Ports Authority regional manager Manuel Gorme told the strikers in a dialogue on Friday morning that the PPA would file criminal charges against the strikers should they refuse to vacate the premises by 5 p.m. that day.

Businessmen had complained that the three-day disruption of port operations had brought them huge losses.

The strikers, all members of the Cisai Employees Union-Associated Labor Union, started their picket on Wednesday to protest the non-implementation of certain provisions in their Collective Bargaining Agreement.

Union vice president Sopriano Sabanal said the management has been using delaying tactics when giving emergency cash advances, as well as allowing them to go on sick and vacation leaves.

"Cisai plays favoritism on the selection of workers who will benefit from the incentives and management is not always accessible when we have problems to raise," Sabanal lamented.

But Vivianne Cipres, acting Cisai president and general manager, said the union violated the "no-strike clause" of the CBA and staged their strike on "non-strikeable grounds."

Cipres said the workers actually wanted to take over the port's stevedoring and cargo handling operations. She produced a letter from union officials addressed to PPA general manager Alfonso Cusi, which asked him not to renew the stevedoring and cargo handling operations of Cisai.

The workers also informed Cusi that they were intent on taking over the Cisai operations themselves.

NORIO AYROSO
on dealer, companion
AYAN MUNA

DENNIS SABANGAN

MISSING
The wife of Honorio Ayroso, coordinator of the party-list group Bayan Muna in Nueva Ecija who has been missing for 36 days and allegedly abducted by the military, shows his picture during a press briefing in Quezon City.

Negros power co-op officials suspended

By Carla P. Gomez
PDI Visayas Bureau

BACOLOD CITY—The National Electrification Administration (NEA) has ordered a 30-day preventive suspension of the Central Negros Electric Cooperative (Ceneco) officials pending investigation of its operation and management.

NEA administrator Francisco Silva named Ceneco supervisor Benedicto Peralta as acting general manager, replacing Christopher Rios.

Silva also issued a memorandum to Ceneco employees, urging them to support and cooperate with Peralta to avoid any disruption of operations.

Aside from Rios, ordered suspended were members of the board composed of Felixberto Verba Jr., president; Felix Hiballes, vice president; Alex Espino, secretary; Luis Ledesma, treasurer; and members Primo Esleyer, Reynaldo Novero, Nicanor Boncalon and Restituto Abaring Sr.

Espino said he and his fellow board members would contest their preventive suspension.

"It is also the position of our lawyer that not even the President (Macapagal-Arroyo) can interfere with the functions of an electric cooperative because we are a private entity," he said.

But Fr. Greg Patino, Negros Consumers Watch president, said that with the suspension order, justice was given to people who had been demanding an NEA takeover of Ceneco.

He said the NCW had been calling for the ouster of Ceneco officials for mismanaging the electric co-op.

In a memorandum dated March 6, Silva said the suspension did not mean that the Ceneco officials had already been judged guilty.

"It is a preventive measure to ensure the continuous smooth operations of Ceneco, a public utility imbued with public interest, pending formal inquiry into its operations and management by NEA and Congress," he said.

Silva noted that the latest NEA audit of Ceneco covering the period from April 1999 to December 2001 showed serious and adverse audit findings against the board of directors and management.

The NEA report also said Ceneco had net losses of P353,958,189.

PMA hit by criticisms, low blows from Baguio media over PDI scoop

By the PDI N. Luzon Bureau

FORT DEL PILAR, Baguio City—So what's the fuss all about? One newspaper reported a scoop and the whole media ganged up on a military institution they blamed for the leak.

And now they even threatened to boycott the coverage of the Philippine Military Academy graduation on March 24.

The bizarre events were triggered by an INQUIRER scoop on March 15 on the list of top graduates of this year's PMA Banyuhay Class of 2002. The story was based on an unofficial list that the INQUIRER obtained this week.

Two media groups here immediately assailed the PMA for "leaking" the list, and demanded an apology from the academy superintendent, Maj. Gen. Rufo de Veyra.

But De Veyra refused to apologize. "I will not offer any apology . . . But we will find out internally who leaked that information," he told a press briefing here Friday.

"Normal *naman sa trabaho n'yo* as newspapermen *na magkaroon ng* scoop (It is in the nature of newspapering to scoop each other)," he added.

The Baguio Correspondents and Broadcasters Club and the Baguio Press Club, composed mostly of editors, reporters and station managers of local media outfits, assailed the PMA's "irreverence to a prior word" that it would not release the list until a formal announcement.

They said they would boycott the coverage of the PMA graduation rites on March 24 where President Macapagal-Arroyo is guest speaker.

A radio broadcast on Saturday said the two press clubs were readying a manifesto condemning the PMA and the INQUIRER.

The local media's reactions were "disturbing" and had caught the academy off guard, said Capt. Edgard Arevalo, PMA spokesperson.

'Very fair'

"The superintendent has been very fair. I will always stand by our truthfulness, our fairness, our honor. We have held media at arms length (since De Veyra assumed office). Media should realize that," he told the INQUIRER.

The INQUIRER's Northern Luzon Bureau said the PMA had nothing to do with the list that it used in its March 15 story.

"Our list did not come from 'PMA insiders,' as what the Baguio media people insisted in their reports," said the bureau in a statement.

"It is very unprofessional for the Baguio media to assail the PMA's 'irreverence to a prior word' because in the first place, the PMA did not leak any list."

Arevalo said: "The PMA was never the official source of your (the INQUIRER's) information, so we will have to maintain our position that we have nothing to apologize about. But these guys are taking it very seriously, and that is what bothers me," said Arevalo.

The bureau said that as soon as the PMA finalized its list of graduating cadets this week, it mobilized its correspondents to verify the names of those cadets on its list.

Sources

"We spent two days just contacting the parents of cadets who made it in our Top 10 list. We called our sources in as far north as Ilocos Sur and in as far south as Zamboanga just to make sure that the names were really among the topnotchers," the bureau said.

Other Baguio editors reacted differently to the position of the two press clubs.

"All this hullabaloo over a simple list of graduates could have been avoided had the PMA simply released it without too much fanfare. This is simply a good PR (public relations) material for PMA and they should take it that way. But they try to control that list, and of course everyone speculates," a veteran editor told the INQUIRER.

"You can bury (the list) 30 feet below the ground, and if you have the nose for news, you just uncover it and hone it. This should not be a big deal for anyone." ***Reports from Vincent Cabreza and Jovelyn Reyes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

DA execs allocate ₱3M for measures vs El Niño

EL NIÑO UPDATE

TACLOBAN CITY—The Department of Agriculture in Eastern Visayas has set aside P3 million for mitigation measures when the El Niño weather phenomenon hits the country in April.

Leo Cañeda, DA regional technical director, said the funds are part of the P10 million intended for the rehabilitation of agriculture-related infrastructure projects in the region.

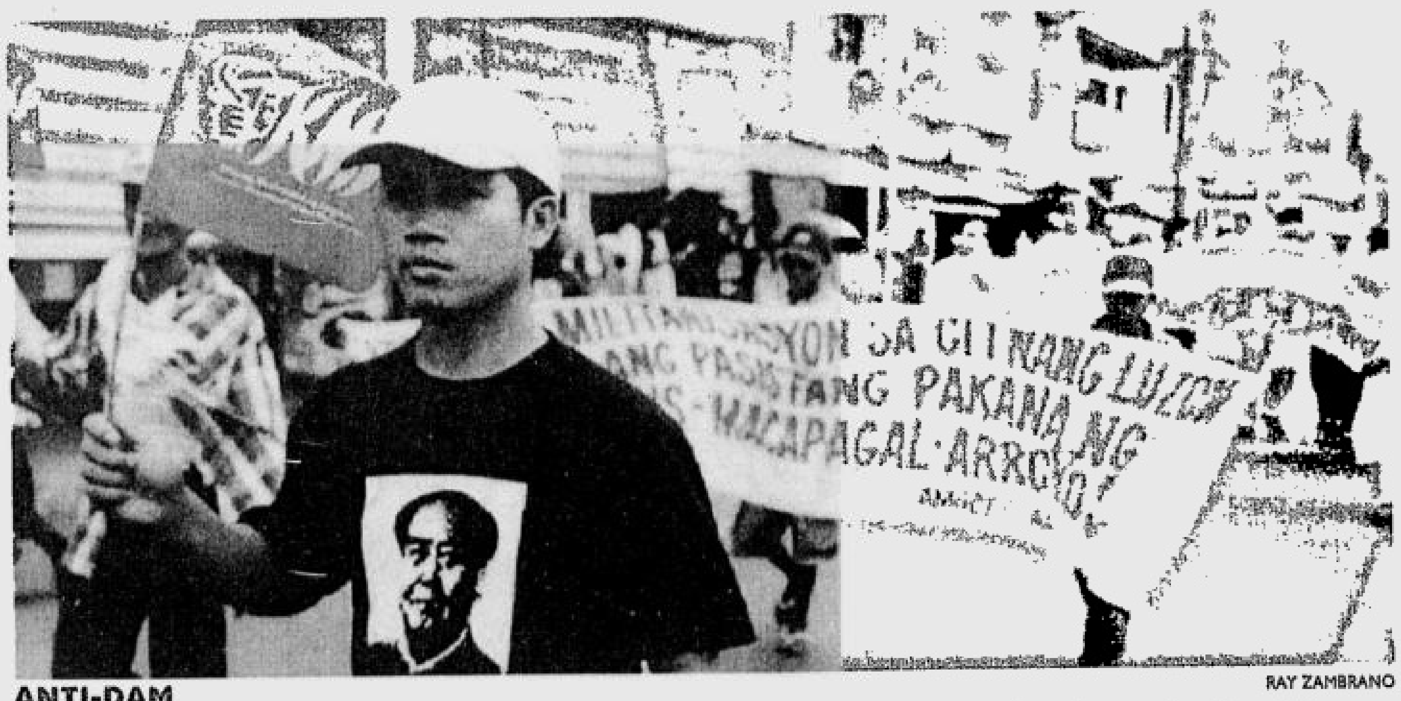
The amount, he said, would be used to improve dilapidated diversion dams and small water impounding systems, and to procure at least 140 shallow tube wells.

The proposed rehabilitation works will cover 3,500 hectares of farmland all over the region.

Cañeda said he has created a special task force that will study and recommend other mitigation measures that are needed to assist farmers who might be affected by the climatic disturbance.

Cañeda urged the farmers not to be disheartened by the entry of the El Niño and instead find ways to diversify crops.

"We can turn this into an opportunity for the farmers to engage in the cultivation of crops that require less water, like vegetables and legumes (and) turn them into a commercially viable and profitable undertaking," he said. ***Joey A. Gabieta, PDI Visayas Bureau***



RAY ZAMBRANO

ANTI-DAM
Hundreds of people belonging to militant groups march in Dagupan City to protest against the construction of the multibillion-peso San Roque dam in marking the International Day of Action against Dams.

₱2-M lumber shipment confiscated in GenSan

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—Coast Guard authorities seized on Thursday a shipment of illegal lumber worth P2 million here.

Eduardo Lara, acting chief petty officer of the Coast Guard station here, said the 40,000 board feet of lumber, consisting of *yakal*, *apitong* and *lauan*, were loaded in three 20-foot container vans owned by Sulpicio Shipping Co.

Lara said the illegal shipment came from the Polloc Port in Parang, Maguindanao.

Before the confiscation, he said his office had received reports that cargo vessels loaded with banned items from Maguindanao would be docking at the Makar Port.

Sulcon 14, a cargo ship owned by Sulpicio Lines, docked on Thursday, at around 7 p.m., at the Makar Wharf to unload several "empty" container vans.

However, Lara said, Coast Guard personnel noticed that the cables used to unload the vans showed unusual tension. He said he immediately issued an order to hold the van.

Shortly after, personnel from the Department of the Environment and Natural Resources were invited to witness the opening of the vans, which yielded the contraband.

The items were put in the custody of the Coast Guard pending the conduct of inventory and scaling on Monday morning.

Lara said the boat skipper could be charged with illegal transport of undocumented forest products by the DENR.

As of press time, nobody contacted the Coast Guard office to inquire about the illegal lumber. ***Aquiles Z. Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

Briton found dead inside motel room

CEBU CITY—A British national was found dead on Friday inside his rented room at the Ruftan Café and Pension House on Legaspi Street here.

Police identified the foreigner as David John Young, 23, through his passport. He was from Inner-Downie Place, Dollar Clackmannan Shire, United Kingdom.

Young was found lying in bed, his head wrapped in a plastic bag tied with a rubber band around the neck.

Police said there were no signs of struggle inside the room.

PO3 Jimmy Aguisanda, homicide investigator, said Young arrived in Cebu from Manila on Wednesday on a Philippine Airlines flight and checked in at the Ruftan on Wednesday afternoon.

Aguisanda said several motel employees noticed that Young went out of his room only once since he arrived.

Another lodger, a German named Heiko Koch, had earlier complained to the motel owner, Jesus Abais, about the foul smell beside his room. ***Kathy I. Navarro, PDI Visayas Bureau***

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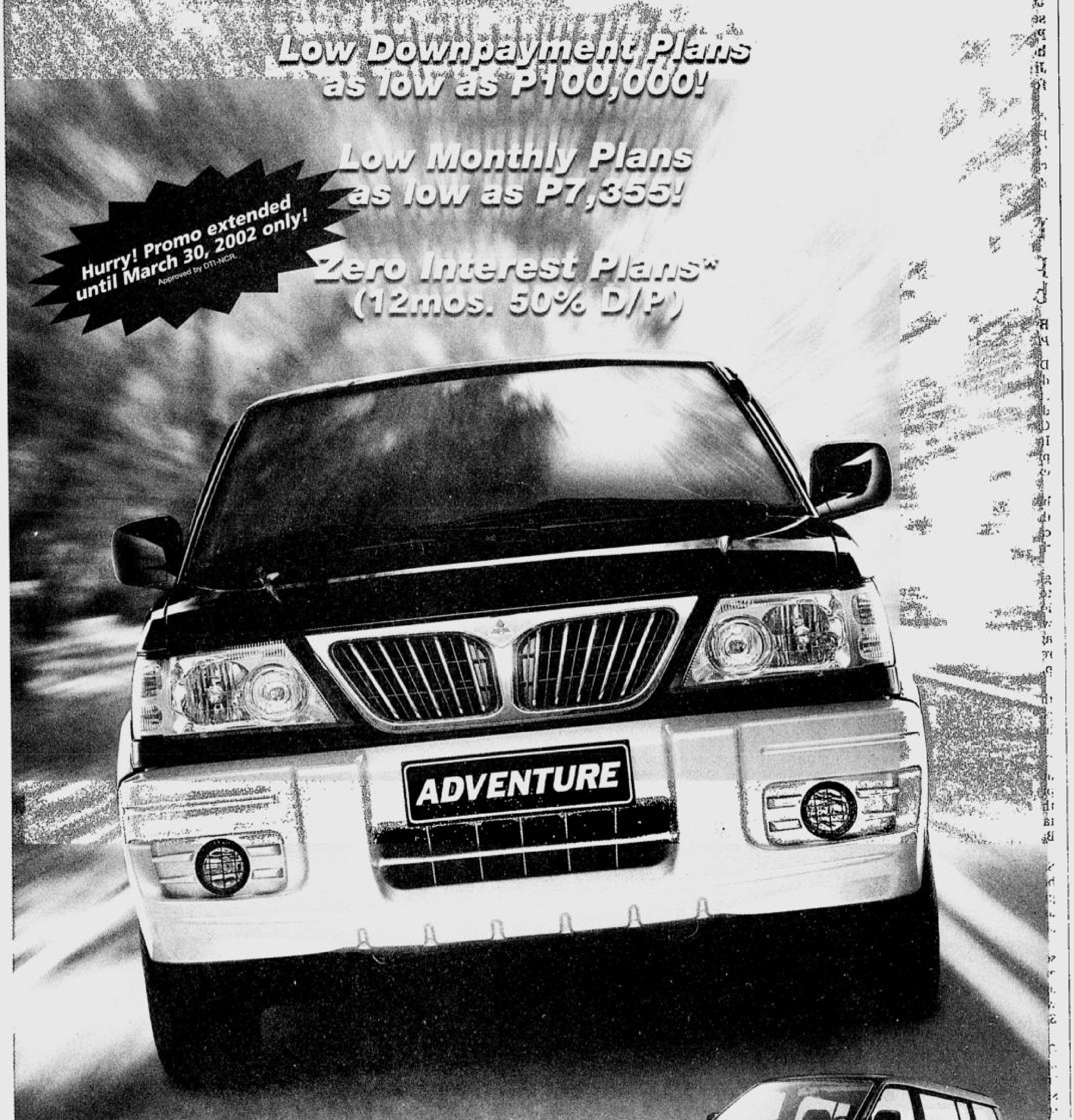
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GL Diesel M/T	611,000	100,000	24,292	17,330
GLX Gas M/T	645,000	100,000	25,644	18,294
Diesel M/T	670,000	100,000	26,638	19,003
GLS Gas M/T	705,000	100,000	28,029	19,996
Gas A/T	740,000	100,000	29,421	20,989
GLS Diesel M/T	720,000	100,000	28,625	20,421
Super Sport Diesel M/T	770,000	134,000	30,613	21,839
Super Sport Gas M/T	750,000	130,000	29,818	21,272
Gas A/T	790,000	138,000	31,408	22,407

*All Plans Subject to Bank Approval

Low Monthly Plan / Zero Interest Plans(12mos. 50% DP)*

Model	ESP	50% D/P	12 mos.	36 mos.	60 mos.
GL Diesel M/T	611,000	305,000	26,316	10,299	7,355
GLX Gas M/T	645,000	322,500	27,780	10,872	7,765
Diesel M/T	670,000	335,000	*27,917	11,293	8,066
GLS Gas M/T	705,000	352,500	30,364	11,883	8,487
Gas A/T	740,000	370,000	31,871	12,473	8,908
GLS Diesel M/T	720,000	360,000	31,010	12,136	8,668
Super Sport Diesel M/T	770,000	385,000	*32,083	12,979	9,270
Super Sport Gas M/T	750,000	375,000	*31,250	12,642	9,029
Gas A/T	790,000	395,000	*32,917	13,316	9,511

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0077 Series of 2002

Banahaw pilgrims told: Bring trash cans, cash

By Delfin T. Mallari Jr.
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

DOLORES, Quezon—For the Lenten pilgrims going on a spiritual trip to Mt. Banahaw, here is one important piece of advice: don't forget to bring along a garbage container for all the non-biodegradable trash that will be accumulated during your stay.

You will also need cash to pay the entrance fees before you can set foot on the mountain's sacred ground.

The local government has started to collect entrance fees from mountain visitors under Municipal Ordinance No. 88-2001.

Pilgrims have to pay P5 as conservation fee, P20 as camping fee, P50-P100 as campsite fee (for a stay of three days and two nights), and an optional fee of P50 for a certificate of conquest.

"We started collecting on March 1. And so far, the reactions among early pilgrims are encouraging. *Bakit daw ngayon lang naningil?* (Why are they collecting fees only now)," Manny Calayag, municipal environment and natural resources officer, said on Wednesday.

He gave a conservative estimate of one million mountain visitors every year.

But environment officials lament the volume of waste left by hordes of devotees who climb every Holy Week.

From the video footage of a mountain cleanup undertaken by volunteers last year, piles of garbage—plastic bags, Styrofoam boxes, and empty bottles of mineral water and canned food—were seen in almost every corner of Banahaw.

"We collected at least 11 truckloads of garbage brought down from the mountain by volunteers composed of students, members of environmental groups and countless unidentified faces who lent hands and answered our call for a massive mountain cleanup last year," Calayag said.

The footage also showed several makeshift huts being demolished by volunteers.

Enterprising vendors, who peddled all kinds of foodstuff, left the structures.

Calayag said an existing municipal ordinance allows only ambulant vendors inside the protected area.

He reminded pilgrims, especially the beginners, to strictly follow all the rules and regulations that they will make public at the registration sites in Barangay Sta. Lucia and Kinabuhayan.

The mountaineers should not make new trails to avoid accidents and should stay away from the water reservoirs being maintained by the local government to avoid possible contamination, he said.

Armando Rotaquio, Quezon environment and natural resources officer, warned pilgrims, especially amulet and souvenir hunters, not to destroy or damage the mountain ecosystem.

"There are pilgrims who are fond of cutting trees or slicing off their bark, or taking with them almost anything, with the belief that these could give them supernatural powers," Rotaquio said.

And worse, he added, others simply vandalize the place by writing all kinds of graffiti everywhere. "They are just desecrating the place they themselves treat as sacred," Rotaquio said.

The collection of entrance fees, however, still did not sit well with members of the Protected Area Management Board.

Mel Camara, head of the protected area and wildlife unit of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources in Quezon, insisted that the collection is "illegal."

Interior Secretary Jose Lina, in a reply on Feb. 23 to a query by provincial environment and natural resources officer Rogelio Delgado of Laguna, said "local ordinance could not prevail over a special law."

Camara cited a law creating and tasking the PAMB with overseeing the collection of fees related to a protected area.

He said the board has passed a resolution requesting Dolores officials to reconsider the ordinance and stop the collection of fees.

Davao City produces biggest durian bar...

By Ayan C. Mellejor and Anthony S. Allada
PDI Mindanao Bureau

DAVAO CITY—The celebration of the Araw ng Davao yesterday marked two events that were considered firsts in the city's 65 years of existence.

Residents witnessed the longest, yet most orderly, parade, participated in by some 300 local and national government offices, and nongovernment and civic groups.

It was also the first time that militant and Moro groups joined the parade, which started at 7 a.m. and ended at 1 p.m.

"The parade depicts unity of all sectors in Davao, regardless of ideology, culture and religion," Mayor Rodrigo Duterte said.

Duterte said the parade could have been much longer had he not turned down some groups that wanted to join.

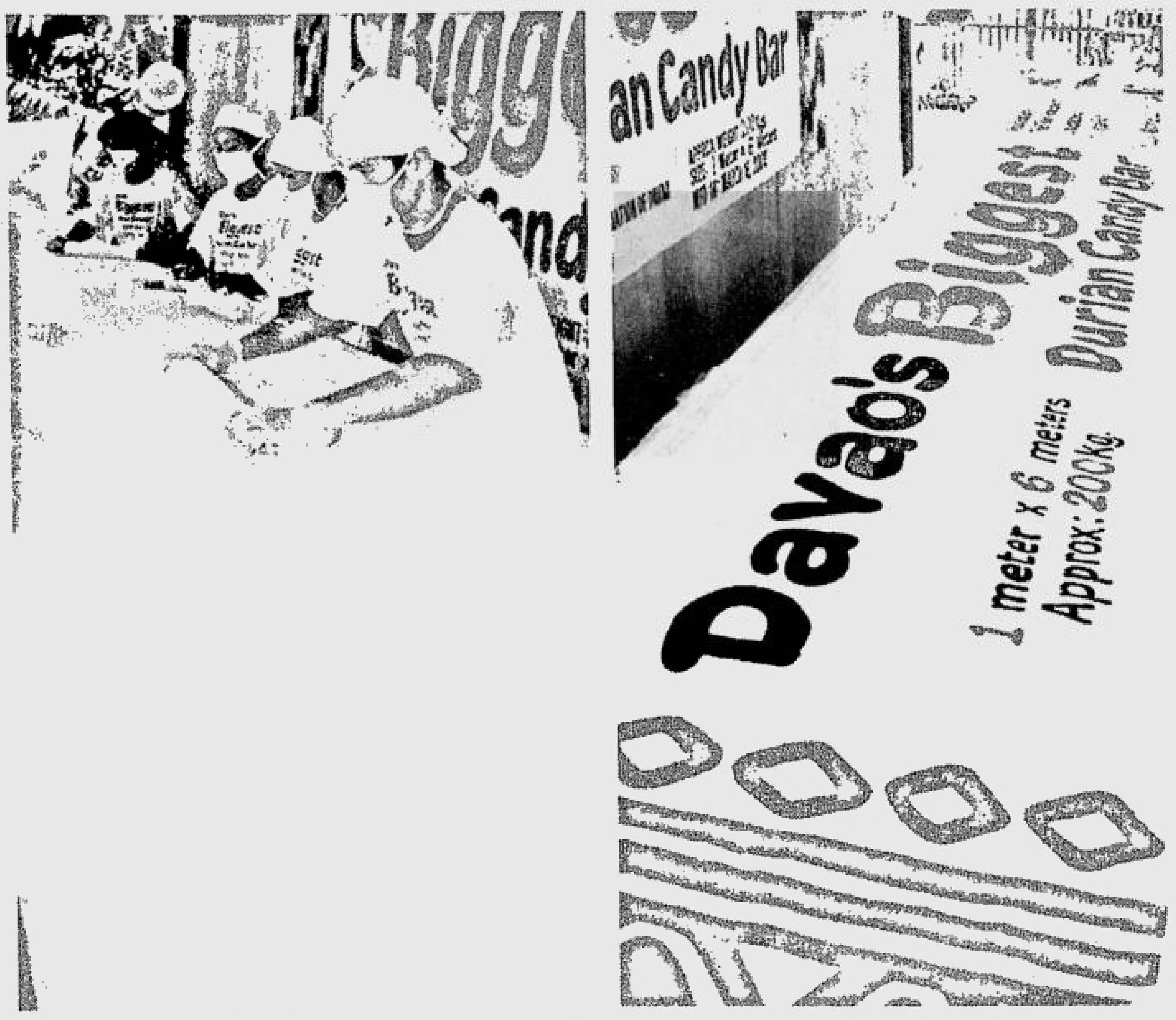
"If I had my own way, I would have let them participate to make them happy, but we should face the facts that we may be running out of time," he said.

As the procession stalled traffic flow in some parts of the city, 25 representatives from the city's famous makers of durian candies were busy preparing the "world's biggest durian candy bar."

The bar was 8.5 meters long, which was even longer than a 1959 Cadillac car. It weighed 200 kilograms or 440 pounds, the equivalent of a normal weight of a sumo wrestler or a lion.

But the cooks said the world's biggest durian bar still tastes like an all-Davaoeño durian fruit, which "tastes like heaven and smells like hell."

Starting at 6 a.m., it took six hours for the 25 persons to cook, mold and roll the durian candy bar. The effort aimed to put the city into the Guinness Book of World Records.



COOKS (left) from the Food Processors Association of Davao prepare the giant candy bar, one of the highlights of the 65th Araw ng Dabaw celebration yesterday. The 200-kilo product (right) is displayed at the Durian Park in Davao City.
BING GONZALES/PDI MINDANAO BUREAU

Dorothy Isa Du, president of the Food Processors Association of Davao City Inc. (FPAD), said the length of the finished product exceeded by 2.5 meters the original target of 6 meters. It measured 8.5 meters.

"*Nagkamali lang siguro kami sa* measurement (We could have erred in the measurement). But it still tastes the same. It tastes good," Du said.

Officially, Du said it was only six meters because the excess was cut off and displayed separately.

"The table, which we have especially made for the bar, was only six meters. We did not foresee the excess slab," she said.

After a brief display before spectators, the durian bar was distributed to those who participated at a pre-selling activity by the Rotary Club.

Proceeds of the durian candy will go to the Maharlika Foundation for its cataract operation project. The group has targeted tribal communities as the next beneficiaries of the project.

. . . as La Trinidad bakes biggest strawberry cake

By Frank Cimatu and Jovelyn Reyes
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

LA TRINIDAD, Benguet—Officials here don't know whether to call it the country's biggest strawberry cake or the longest strawberry shortcake, but they guarantee that it would be the largest and prettiest strawberry in the world.

As a highlight of the first La Trinidad Strawberry Festival, a seven-foot strawberry cake will be unveiled on tomorrow at the municipal hall here.

La Trinidad is expected to serve the cake to 13,000 people.

"The strawberry will (stand) upside down. Otherwise, it will roll over if it (stands) right side up," said Mayor Nestor Fongwan.

The strawberry shortcake has the strawberry, cream and sugar mixture sandwiched between sheet cakes and topped with whipping cream and glaze.

Eric Espadero, owner of Valley Bread bakery, will oversee the baking of the strawberry shortcake.

The six-layered cake costs between P45,000 and P60,000 and weighs about 400 kilos.

Espadero said five people would spend at least 16 hours to finish the cake. "The hard part is the putting of the icing which might take around nine hours," he said.

A green and brownish-green icing will be whipped up to decorate the strawberry leaves and stalk. The icing, according to Espadero, weighs at least 60 kilos.

To complete the cake, bakers will beat at least 2,600 pieces of medium-sized eggs and harvest 100 kilos of fresh and fully ripe strawberries.

CANDIDATES for the Ms Strawberry Queen in La Trinidad, Benguet, visit a strawberry farm. The competition is among the highlights of the town's festival tomorrow.
TOOTS SOBERANO/PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

The cake also requires 100 blocks of butter, 78 kilos of white sugar, 100 kilos of cake flour, 13 kilos of soya oil, a half kilo of cream of tartar, and a half kilo of baking powder.

It will be placed in a foil-wrapped, strawberry-shaped wooden stand that will be opened for viewing from 1 to 2 p.m. and for tasting from 2 to 5 p.m. tomorrow.

La Trinidad is the third town in the Cordillera to be bitten by the Guinness bug.

The creation of anything big or giant, either tossed or baked, has become a trend among Cordillera towns in a move to boost tourism.

Last September, a garden salad weighing one ton was eaten by 5,000 people during the celebration of Baguio Day.

Last November, Benguet came up with its own King Carrot cake.

Ilocos Norte draws tourists but runs short of facilities

By Cristina Arzadon
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

MARCOS

LAOAG CITY—After declaring that local tourism promotions have paid off, officials here have started to shift their focus into building more tourism-related structures with the rise in tourist arrivals over the last few years.

With 23 international flights at the Laoag International Airport, the city holds the record of having the most number of flights outside Metro Manila, even exceeding the number of flights to Cebu City and Subic, officials said.

To catch the spillover of hotel and resort occupants, communities near local vacation spots such as beach resorts were encouraged to transform their spare rooms and idle spaces into bed-and-breakfast type facilities.

More B&B

"Since we lack the facilities, we must now encourage the opening of bed-and-breakfast type facilities where residents who have spare rooms in their homes will open up those rooms. In that way, we can have extra 100 to 150 rooms for accommodations," Ilocos Norte Gov. Ferdinand Marcos Jr. said.

Aside from Spanish colonial icons, such as the centuries-old St. Augustine Church in Paoay, now declared a national treasure by the National Historical Institute, Ilocos Norte is home to pristine beaches, the most famous of which is the Pagudpud white beach.

Marcos said the provincial government is issuing a primer for communities to follow for them to meet the standards in maintaining the facilities.

Accreditation

Those who will offer their houses will be included on a list of accredited bed-and-breakfast areas. The accredited facilities will be posted on a web site that the province plans to put up to provide easier access for tourists looking for alternative accommodation.

"That accreditation will require us to inspect these (facilities). If they are not fit, then we will remove them from the list. They have to maintain a certain level of cleanliness, of service, and of food quality for them to be included there," Marcos said.

Providing alternative accommodations, he said, is only a short-term solution to the shortage of hotels.

"In the long term, we will have to build hotels and resorts. In the end, the long-term solution is investment. We have to find investors to come in," Marcos said.

To offset the lack of beach cottages during peak holiday season, resort owners in Pagudpud have offered camping facilities to tourists who prefer pitching tents by the beachfront.

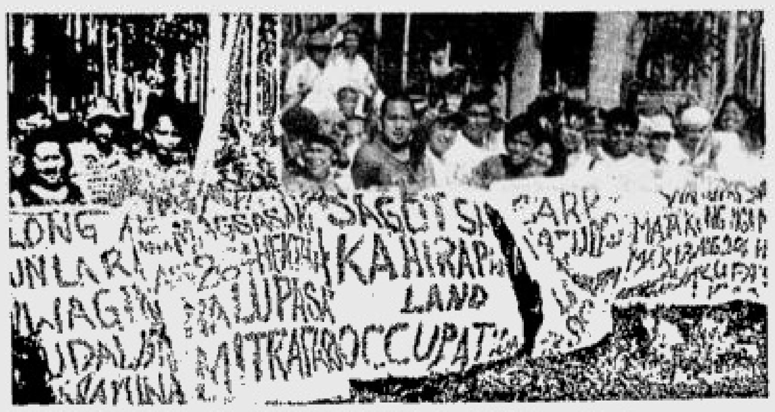
Low budget

Local tourists with limited pocket money can also avail themselves of "economy rates" being offered by Pagudpud residents for the use of their houses as overnight lodging areas.

Records of the Department of Tourism showed an increasing number of tourist arrivals in Ilocos Norte in the last two years with 104,642 visitors in 2000 compared to 170,686 visitors last year.

Chinese tourists topped the number of foreign tourists with 43,775 out of 55,852 foreign visitors last year.

Local tourists, however, remain to be Ilocos Norte's biggest market with 114,834 out of 170,686 visitors who came during the same period.



MEMBERS of the Union of CARP Potential Beneficiaries Multipurpose Cooperative picket at the Mitra property in Ligao City, which was placed under the agrarian reform program.
TONY MACASINAG/PDI SOUTHERN LUZON BUREAU

Farmers claim land owned by Mitra heirs

LIGAO, City—Agrarian reform officials on Friday led some 200 farmer-beneficiaries in claiming 154 hectares of land owned by Ligao Farm Systems Inc. (LFSI) under the government's comprehensive agrarian reform program.

Dominador Andres, regional director of the Department of Agrarian Reform, said Malacañang had rejected a petition by LFSI to exclude the land from CARP coverage.

The parcels of land, owned by the heirs of former Speaker Ramon Mitra Jr. and managed by LFSI, are found here and in Guinobatan, Albay.

Andres said President Macapagal-Arroyo, through Executive Secretary Alberto Romulo, affirmed in a decision issued on Feb. 28 the government's plan to distribute the land parcels to the farmers.

On Jan. 18, 2001, the DAR issued an order placing the land under CARP coverage.

Rustom Suruiz, president of the Paulog Coconut Farmers Association (Pacopa), said members of his group have been issued Agrarian Reform Certificates of Land Ownership Award.

Pacopa, a member of the Union of the CARP-Potential Beneficiaries Multipurpose Cooperative, had been promised since March 1996 not only the 154 hectares of land but the entire 264 hectares of land managed by LFSI, Suruiz said.

"It is verifiable through a Certificate of Registration Authority in the Registry of Deed under Act 6657 Lot No. 2470-Dand 2470-E situated at Barangay Batang, City of Ligao, covered by TCT No. C-22637 and C-22636 registered in the name of UCPB-MPC and awarded last March 27, 1996," he said. ***Tony Macasinag, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***

Marinduque folk remember 1996 mining disaster

By Delfin T. Mallari Jr.
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

BOAC, Marinduque—Six years after a mining disaster hit this province, Marcopper Mining Corp. and its Canadian mother company, Placer Dome Inc., have yet to fulfill their promise to rehabilitate the rivers and bay and compensate victims of the their mine waste spill.

This is the lament of officials of the Philippine Rural Reconstruction Movement, a non-government organization that supports the disaster victims in their quest for justice.

"We invite President Macapagal-Arroyo to visit Marinduque to see for herself the damage to the environment of the island-province and to listen to the people of Marinduque," said Joseph Purugganan, PRRM campaigns unit head.

The dead rivers of Boac and Mogpog are grim reminders of the mining tragedy and of the irresponsibility of Marcopper and Placer Dome, Boac Councilor Rolly Larracas said.

"The death of the rivers ruined the livelihood of thousands of farmers and fisherfolk living in the area," he said.

On March 24, 1996, millions of cubic meters of toxic mine tailings escaped from a drainage tunnel at the mine site and spilled into the Boac and Makulapnit rivers.

Purugganan also assailed the foreign mining companies for purportedly trying to lure Ms Macapagal to declare support for foreign investments in the mining industry.

In preparation for the coming anniversary, the newly formed coalition called Buklod Marinduque staged a benefit musical concert on March 13 dubbed "Remembering the Rivers" at the 70s Bistro in Quezon City.

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0047, Series of 2002.

INQUIRER Mindanao
Editor Jun Bandayrel ◎ Bureau Chief Nico A. Alconaba

Warriors swap songs, not bullets

By Aquiles Z. Zonio
General Santos City

HIS voice, not his gun, silenced his adversaries. This was what happened when an undercover agent of the Moro National Liberation Front bested other singing warriors of the police, military and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front.

The contest, which was launched by GMA Super Radyo and Campus Radio, in cooperation with the local government of General Santos, was one of the highlights of the city's 63rd founding anniversary celebration late last month.

The contest was lauded for its relevance, especially during the quest for the elusive peace in Mindanao.

It was the first time that soldiers and rebels alike were seen on-stage, showing their talents in singing. The encounter showed that warriors espousing opposing ideologies can coexist, if not on the battlefront, then at least on the singing front.

On stage, they were seen brandishing, not guns, but a microphone. Their actuation and facial expression exuded excitement, not hatred, rancor and vengeance. They longed for victory, not death or the surrender of their enemies.

In the end, a rebel won.

Coming in from the cold

Robert Conjurado, an MNLF spy, was adjudged champion and went home with P20,000 in cash, a round-trip boat ticket from General Santos to Manila, and a trophy.

He won the hearts of the judges with his powerful rendition of the song "Dakilang Lahi," popularized by young singer Ciara Sotto.

Campus Radio and Super Radyo
IN COOPERATION with the CITY GOVERNMENT of GENERAL SAN
Singing for PEACE in Mindanao

WINNERS ALL: (From left) Winny Fundar of the Bureau of Fire Prevention, third prize; Mary Ann Ligtas of the General Santos Police Office (second prize); and Robert Conjurado of the Moro National Liberation Front (first prize).

AQUILES Z. ZONIO

Winning, however, wasn't easy for Conjurado. A few hours before the grand finals began, the police and military accused the "tall, dark and handsome" Conjurado as a bogus MNLF combatant.

In fact, the event nearly turned into a fiasco when contestants from the police and military questioned his credentials and even threatened to walk out. Who would expect that a Christian and a good-looking, talented singer like him is a full-fledged rebel spy?

Conjurado had to divulge his real identity, showing his identification card and a certification from the MNLF's Selatan Kutawato Revolutionary Committee, just to convince his accusers that he is an MNLF intelligence officer.

"Participants from the police and military got the shock of their lives upon learning the real score," Chris Guarin, program director of GMA Super Radyo, said.

Guarin said the police and military wanted Conjurado disqualified as he was the top favorite among the 18 contenders for the top prize.

Special winner

A civilian employee from the General Santos police placed second and went home with P10,000 in cash, a round-trip boat ticket, and a trophy.

A member of the Bureau of Fire Protection in the city bagged third prize, consisting of P3,000 cash, a round-trip boat ticket, and a trophy.

Raden Guiamla, 26, an MILF fighter, did not go home empty-handed. Organizers had to secure a safe-conduct pass from the military to ensure his presence in the grand finals.

Guiamla bade goodbye, bringing home not the bacon but the esteem and admiration of the spectators. He drew the strongest applause and endeared himself to the crowd by singing his own original composition titled "Ina."

Excerpts of that song, which he wrote and sang in Maguindanon:

"Ina, manalangin tayo . . .
Na makamtan natin
ang ating layunin.
Na sana wala nang dadanak na dugo
dahil nakakaawa ang mga
mamamayan,
Muslim man o Kristiyano.
Lahat tayo ay magkaisa
para sa kapakanan ng marami
sa Lupang Mindanao
dahil ito ay bayan nating mahal."

WHALE SHARK ENCOUNTERS

Of the fish that swallowed 2 Jonahs

By Christine Godinez-Ortega
Iligan City

A WHALE shark (*Rhincodon typus*) sighted by fishermen off the coast of Buru-un in Iligan City last March 1 raised hopes of local marine biologists that the "gentle giants" are back in the Iligan Bay.

Whale sharks are the biggest fish in the world, growing up to 50 feet with a distinctive checkerboard pattern of white dots on the skin.

Fish warden Franklin Canoy of Linamon, Lanao del Norte, reported that in 1974, a whale shark swam beside their 40-foot boat. Since the whale shark was a little longer than the boat, Canoy estimated it to be 45 feet long, the biggest reported sighting of a whale shark in the Iligan Bay or in the neighboring Macajalar Bay.

The sighting proves that the over-fished or over-hunted whale sharks in the two bays are back just as the shrimp, locally known as "*uyabang*," the main food of whale sharks, in the two bays is in season.

An undergraduate thesis on whale shark fisheries in the Iligan and Macajalar bays submitted by Dani G. Ortega to the Department of Biological Sciences of the Mindanao State University-Iligan Institute of Technology reports that local fishermen consider the whale shark a pest because it competes with them for fish.

'Thief in the dark'

Fishermen Juanito Gica and Amado Yurong, from Barangay Kalangahan, Lugait, Misamis Oriental, said that while fishing at night in their outrigger boats using a light to attract fish, they saw the whale shark coming up from the bottom, its mouth sucking off the fish aggregated by their fishing lights.

The fishermen could not harm the whale shark because this would bring "bad luck." (Japanese fishermen who call the whale shark "*ebisuzame*" do not harm the gentle animal since it is considered a good luck symbol.) All they could do was to switch off their lights and wait for the whale shark to go away.

Gica and Yurong said they could tell which of their neighboring fishermen are visited by the whale shark since they would hear a commotion followed by the switching off of fishing lights.

In 1996, a two-foot baby whale shark weighing three kilograms and estimated to be two months old was caught in 1996 by hook-and-line fisherman Francisco Navaro off Kauswagan, Lanao del Norte. It was still alive and Navaro released it.

The catch suggested that whale sharks reproduce in the Iligan Bay.

2 Jonahs

Geoff Taylor, author of the book titled "Whale Sharks: The Giants of Ningaloo Reef," relates the interesting suggestion of experts that the animal that swallowed Jonah in the biblical story may have been a fish or a whale shark and not a whale which is a marine mammal.

The original Hebrew version of the story used the word, "*tanninum*" meaning a large sea animal.

Expert Eugenie Clark describes the inside of a whale shark's mouth as a giant "colander" leading to an expandable cardiac stomach. There are 6,000 teeth in each jaw, but these are only one-sixteenth of an inch long.

Unwanted items accidentally swallowed by the whale shark are spat out by the animal in a process called "gastric eversion," wherein the cardiac stomach is pushed out through the mouth expelling the unwanted items before being pulled back in place.

With a mouth about four and a half feet wide, a whale shark can easily swallow two Jonahs.

The hunters

Whale sharks were hunted almost to local extinction prior to 1998 in the Macajalar Bay.

Whale shark hunters from Talisayan, Misamis Oriental, were catching the animal by hand harpoon off the neighboring Salay and Kinoguitan towns in Misamis Oriental. Taiwanese businessmen were exporting the whale shark meat, considered an "aphrodisiac," to Taiwan.

Records kept by Roel "Dodong" Uy, owner of the Matangali-Alibuag beach resort showed that in 1990, 121 whale sharks were landed in Talisayan, Misamis Oriental. The catch rose to 158 in 1994 but decreased to 88 in 1995, 33 in 1996 and only 27 the following year despite the tripling of the price per whale shark from P7,500 in 1990 to P25,000 in 1997.

Gov't ban

Fisheries Administrative Order No. 193 was passed on March 25, 1998, banning the catching of whale sharks and manta rays. The ban was passed after the slaughter of seven whale sharks on March 12, 1998 in Donsol, Sorsogon. Fishermen lost a lucrative source of income due to the ban.

In Talisayan, about 200 families benefited from the whale shark fishery, from the hunters and butchers to the porters and sellers of dried whale shark meat.

Dodong Uy said an alternative livelihood program, "Snorkel with the World's Biggest Fish," was organized in cooperation with the local government for former whale shark fishermen.

Half of the package rate of $600 (P30,000) would go to the Whale Shark Hunters Association, whose members now serve as whale shark spotters and guides.

To drum up concern for the whale shark, a Whale Shark Museum was built in Talisayan from the funds raised from another program, "Walk for the Whale Shark," in 1999. But when visited in April 2001, the Whale Shark Museum needed some repairs.

Until recently, the whale shark was one of the giants of the ocean that had remained a mystery to fishermen, divers and scientists alike. The discovery of whale shark concentrations in places like Pamilacan in Bohol, the Macajalar Bay, and in Donsol, Sorsogon, has brought foreign scientists and tourists to the Philippines to study and interact with the whale sharks.

It is interesting to note that the first reported sighting of a whale shark reaching Western knowledge occurred near Manila in 1816. This was two years after the Mayon volcano erupted and buried the town of Cagsawa and two years before Fr. Diego Cerra built the Las Piñas bamboo organ.

Taylor, citing an account collected by the whale shark expert Eugene Gudger, said a whale shark passed under an anchored ship, misleading the crew to think that their ship was drifting over a coral reef and the anchor had broken.

The same report said Filipino fishermen were afraid of whale sharks because they were alleged to attack fishing boats and, on one occasion, had swallowed a man who had fallen overboard.

Fourteen years after this report, in 1828, the first whale shark known to scientists, a 15-foot animal was captured in the Cape of Good Hope and the species was given the name *Rhincodon typus* by Andrew Smith.

Later reports had always shown the animals as benign giants.

Memorable encounters

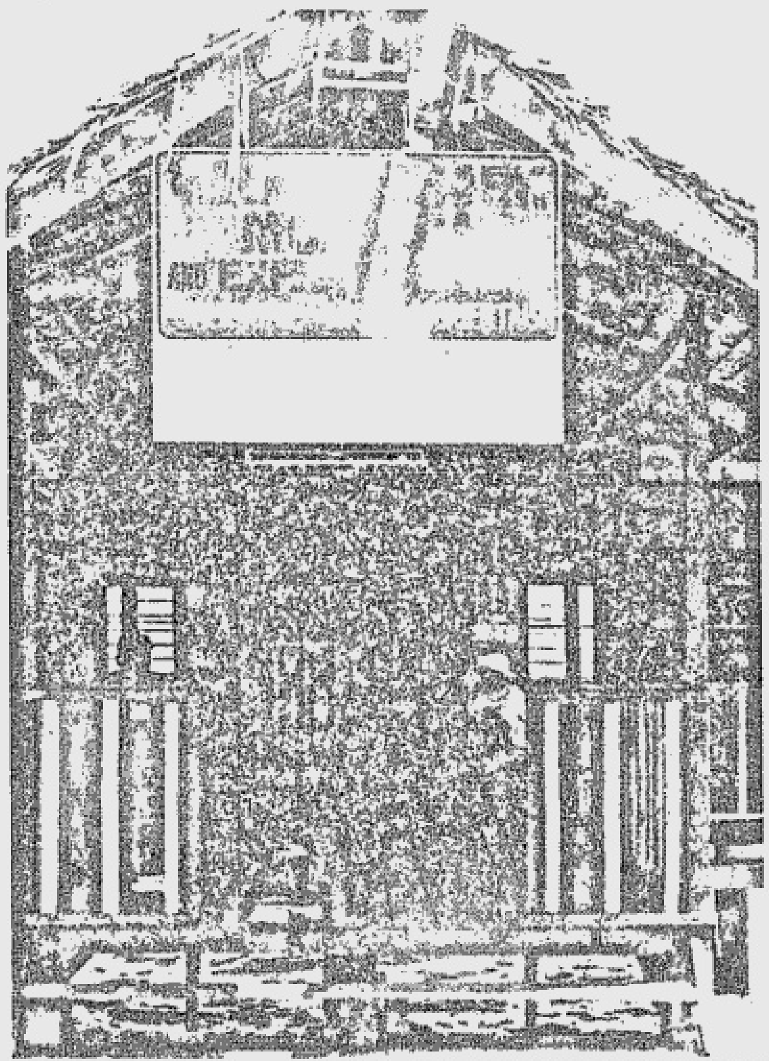
Benjamin Catugal, of Barangay Kalangahan, Lugait, Misamis Oriental, and Gica have memorable encounters with these gentle giants.

Catugal was spear fishing and as he surfaced, he bumped his head on the pectoral fin of a huge fish. Alarmed, he swam as fast as he could, but the whale shark merely continued swimming.

Gica was getting down into the water from his boat at a fish shelter called "*payao*." To his surprise, he did not sink. He discovered that he was standing on the back of a whale shark. He was so frightened, he jumped and swam away, but the whale shark did not bother him.

Diving instructor and veterinarian Carlo Echiverri also narrated that while scuba diving, he saw a whale shark swimming above him, catching the bubbles from his scuba tank in its lower jaw. Echiverri had dived many times and had encountered the whale sharks swimming as close as one and a half meters from the fish.

All these accounts prove that whale sharks are harmless animals.



PHOTOS BY CARMELA DEMETRIO ORTEGA

THE WHALE Shark Museum and Exhibit Center in Talisayan, Misamis Oriental, in need of funds and repair.

FORMER whale shark butcher, Mario Rabusa (seated, left) and his cousin Loloy Rabusa, former whale shark hunter (seated, right) with biology student Dani Ortega. The Rabusas say, "*Hayahay kaayo ang kinabuhi sa nanukiay pa mi.* (Life was much better when we were hunting whale sharks)."

PHILIPPINE SOCIETY OF ENDOCRINOLOGY & METABOLISM, INC.

* A Specialty Society of the Philippine Medical Association (PMA) * A Component Society of the Philippine College of Physicians (PCP)
* A Member of of the International Society of Endocrinology (ISE)

2002 PSEM ANNUAL CONVENTION

"Controversies in Endocrinology"

March 18 & 19, 2002 • Edsa Shangri-la Hotel

Messages

In behalf of the Officers and Board of Governors of the Philippine Medical Association, we sincerely convey our best wishes to you, the Officers and members of the Philippine Society of Endocrinology and Metabolism on the occasion of your Annual Convention.

We are only too glad to be a part of this gathering, and heartily join you in welcoming endocrinologists, internists, family physicians and general practitioners to this important annual convention. This convention's theme, "Controversies in Endocrinology, is most apt as it resonates the PSEM commitment to update knowledge and to bring into focus the advances in the management of endocrine diseases. With a host of experts from other countries and those from our own shores sharing their expertise through interactive and informative scientific sessions, participants in this convention will truly be rewarded with handsome benefits. With you, we look forward to the unqualified success of your Annual Convention.

Thank you for keeping in step with the PMA in encouraging doctors to be at the forefront in addressing health threats, thus, giving reality to our theme, "Doctors at the Forefront - A Challenge for Change".

Congratulations, and mabuhay ang Philippine Society of Endocrinology and Metabolism.

GIL C. FERNANDEZ
President - Philippine Medical Association

On behalf of the Philippine College of Physicians, I wish to express my warm congratulations to the Philippine Society of Endocrinology and Metabolism on its 2002 Annual Convention.

Your unified effort in holding the convention focusing on "Controversies in Endocrinology" will certainly strengthen and reinforce the ongoing commitment of your members to the demands of this new century.

Let this meeting lead us toward successful endeavors in giving top priority health information that will benefit not only our colleague but our patients as well.

ANTONIO H. VILLALON, M.D., FPCP
President - Philippine College of Physicians

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the 2002 Annual Convention of the Philippine Society-, of Endocrinology and Metabolism entitled "Controversies in Endocrinology".

This year's scientific program boasts of an impressive line-up of international and Philippine experts in various areas of endocrinology particularly thyroid diseases, diabetes, and osteoporosis. The highly attended Meet-the-Expert sessions will be part of the program again this year. These 2-day one-hour sessions will enable participants to have interactive sessions with the experts.

One of the highlights of this year's annual convention will be the presentation of the 2 completed research papers, the P100,000 PSEM Research Grant in Endocrinology recipient "The Clinical Utility of Serum Thyroglobulin in Screening for Thyroid Carcinoma" and the P100,000 PSEM-Service Research Grant in Diabetes recipient "A Reassessment of the Fasting Glucose Concentration in the Diagnosis of Diabetes". This year, we shall also have the presentation and awarding of the P150,000 and P100,000 Research Grants in Endocrinology and Diabetes, respectively. We have received a total of 13 research proposals and the increased interest has been truly inspiring.

A solemn investiture of the Society's new diplomates shall be an important part of this year's annual convention activities. It is hoped that the example of these fine professionals shall serve as an inspiration for achieving the goals of our Society.

On behalf of the members of the PSEM Board, I enjoin you once again to actively participate with the discussions and bring in your insights to help us all achieve PSEM's Mission: To lead in the pursuit of excellence in Endocrinology and Vision: Quality endocrine care, education and research to every region of the Philippine by 2010.

Elizabeth Pz Pacheco
ELIZABETH PAZ-PACHECO, MD. FPCP, FPSEM
President, Philippine Society of Endocrinology and Metabolism

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WHAT IS ENDOCRINOLOGY?

*By: **Cynthia Halili-Manabat**, M.D., FPSEM*

Endocrinology is fundamentally the study of cell-to-cell communication by messenger molecules called hormones. Endocrinology studies the system which controls and adjusts many of the body's most important physiologic functions, including, reproduction, growth and development, and energy balance.

As a discipline, clinical endocrinology is largely concerned with the consequences of either excessive or deficient hormone secretion.

WHAT IS AN ENDOCRINOLOGIST?

In the Philippines, an endocrinologist is an internist who has completed an additional 2 year accredited training or fellowship in endocrinology. A Pediatric Endocrinologist is a pediatrician who has undergone a similar 2 year training course in Pediatric Endocrinology; while a Reproductive Endocrinologist is an obstetrician who has had further training in the endocrine aspects of pregnancy (notably infertility) and the climacterium.

WHO IS A BOARD CERTIFIED ENDOCRINOLOGIST?

To be certified by the Philippine Specialty Board of Endocrinology and Metabolism, one must have:

1) Completed his residency in Internal Medicine
2) Passed the oral and written examination of the Philippine Specialty Board of Internal Medicine
3) Completed a 2 year fellowship in Endocrinology
4) Passed the oral and written examination of the Philippine Specialty Board of Endocrinology and Metabolism

A diplomate in Endocrinology is someone who has completed all the above requirements. He is then conferred the title of "fellow" 2 years later after having passed peer review.

WHAT DISEASES ARE TREATED BY AN ENDOCRINOLOGIST?

Among the many disorders of endocrine function seen by an endocrinologist, Diabetes Mellitus and Thyroid Diseases (goiters) are the most common. Other disorders include: disorder of the hypothalamus and the pituitary gland, like tumors, short stature, anorexia nervosa; diseases of the adrenal gland; disorders of calcium metabolism, like osteoporosis; disorders of plasma lipids, like high cholesterol and triglycerides; obesity. Some endocrinologists also have specialized training in diseases of the male and female sex organs.

PROGRAM OF ACTIVITIES

March 17 (Sunday)
6:00 pm Pre-Convention Dinner Symposium **Abbott Laboratories**
Targeting Obesity in the Management of Type 2 Diabetes - Dr. Ruby T. Go

10th Conferment Ceremonies & 6th Solemn Investiture

March 18 (Day 1)
7:00 – 8:30 **BREAKFAST SYMPOSIUM** (Isla Ballroom 1) **Eli Lilly (Phils.), Inc.**
Update: Hyperglycemic Emergencies - Dr. Augusto D. Litonjua

8:30 – 8:45 Opening Ceremonies - Dr. Roberto C. Mirasol, Chair, Scientific
National Anthem
Invocation - Dr. Cynthia Chua-Ho, PSEM Director
Cordial Message - Dr. Gil C. Fernandez, PMA President
Welcome Remarks - Dr. Elizabeth Paz-Pacheco, PSEM President

PLENARY SESSION 1 - Isla Ballroom 2 & 3 - (Supported by Novartis Healthcare Phils., Inc.)
8:45 – 9:15 Metabolic Syndrome X where to? - Dr. Brian Tomlinson (HK)
9:15 – 9:45 Use of Thyroid Hormones: Caveats and Controversies - Dr. Elizabeth Paz-Pacheco

9:45 – 10:00 Cutting of Ribbon / Opening of Exhibits

SYMPOSIUM 1: OBESITY & NUTRITION - Isla Ballroom 2 & 3 (Supported by Roche Philippines)
10:00 – 10:30 Treatment of Obesity: What the Evidence Says - Dr. Rosa Allyn G. Sy
10:30 – 11:00 Nutrition in the Aging Population - Dr. Gabriel V. Jasul, Jr.
11:00 – 11:15 Open forum / Coffee Break

11:15 – 12:15 **MEET THE EXPERTS SESSIONS 1**
1) Weird Thyroid Function Tests - Dr. Laura Trajano- Acampado
2) Thyroid Nodules: When to operate and How much?
3) Monitoring Thyroid Cancer - Dr. Ruben G. Kasala
4) Thyroid Disorders in Pregnancy - Dr. Leilani Mercado-Asis

12:15 – 1:30 **LUNCH SYMPOSIA**
Lunch Symposium 1 (Garden Ballroom) **Eli Lilly (Phils.), Inc.**
Breakthrough Findings in the Therapeutic Potential of Raloxifene
against Fractures, Heart Attacks and Breast Cancer - Prof. Henry George Burger, MD (Australia)

Lunch Symposium 2 (Isla Ballroom) **Merck Sharp & Dohme**
The Heart Protection Study - Dr. Eduardo Caguioa

PRESENTATION & JUDGING OF RESEARCH GRANT PROPOSALS Chair : Elizabeth Paz-Pacheco

1:30 – 2:00 Presentation of 2 Researches – Winners of PSEM Research Grant in Endocrinology
2001 and PSEM-Servier Research Grant in Diabetes 2001

2:00 – 3:00 Announcement of winners of 2002 PSEM Research Grant in Endocrinology
and the PSEM Servier Research Grant in Diabetes

Coffee Break

SYMPOSIUM 2: DIABETES & LIPIDS - Isla Ballroom 2 & 3 - (Supported by Servier Philippines, Inc.)
3:00 – 3:30 Insulin or Beta Cell Dysfunction – One Sided or Equal
Therapeutic Targets? - Dr. Augusto D. Litonjua

3:30 – 4:00 Diabetic Dyslipidemia and Coronary Artery Disease:
The Case for Aggressive Management - Dr. Brian Tomlinson (HK)

4:00 – 4:30 The Inevitability of Insulin Treatment as Type 2 Progresses - Dr. Ruby T. Go

4:30 – 5:00 Open Forum
5:00 – 6:00 Business Meeting and Awarding of Certificates of Appreciation

6:00 – 7:00 **DINNER SYMPOSIA** (Isla Ballroom 1) **Aventis Pharma, Inc.**
Risedronate – A Member of a New Generation of Bisphosphonates
for the Prevention and Treatment of Postmenopausal and
Glucocorticoid- Induced Osteoporosis - Prof. Markus J. Seibel, MD, PhD (Australia)

7:00 - **FELLOWSHIP NIGHT** **Aventis Pharma, Inc.**

March 19 (Day 2)
7:00 – 8:30 **BREAKFAST SYMPOSIUM** **Pfizer Philippines**

PLENARY SESSION 2 - Isla Ballroom 2 & 3 - (Supported by Eli Lilly (Phils.), Inc.)
8:30 – 9:15 The Endocrinology of Menopause:
The Central Role of Inhibin B - Prof. Henry Burger (Australia)

9:15 – 9:45 Polycystic Ovarian Syndrome: Insulin Abnormalities - Dr. Cynthia Halili-Manabat, PhD
Professorial Chair Lecture
Dr. Cynthia Navarro-Montillano
Faculty Grant / UP College of Medicine

SYMPOSIUM 3: SUBCLINICAL THYROID DISEASES - Isla Ballroom 2 & 3 - (Supported by Merck, Inc.)
9:45 – 10:15 Subclinical Hypothyroidism - Dr. Lina Lantion-Ang
10:15 – 10:45 Subclinical Hyperthyroidism - Dr. Joselynna Añel-Quimpo

10:45 – 11:15 Open forum / Coffee Break

11:15 - 12:15 **MEET THE EXPERTS SESSIONS 2**
1) Gynecomastia - Dr. Patricia B. Gatbonton
2) Iodine Deficiency Disorders - Dr. Federico B. Cruz
3) Adrenal Incidentalomas: What to do? - Dr. Josephine C. Raboca
4) Assessment and Treatment of Obesity in Childhood and Adolescence - Dr. Susan Padilla-Campos

12:15 – 2:00 **LUNCH SYMPOSIA**
Lunch Symposium 1 (Garden Ballroom) Organon Phils., Inc.
Medical Management of Hyperthyroidism - Dr. Konstantinos I. Papadopoulos, PhD (Greece)

Lunch Symposium 2 (Isla Ballroom 1) **GlaxoSmithKline**
Managing the Metabolic Syndrome in Diabetes:
New Opportunities for Organ Protection - Dr. Mary Anne Lim-Abrahan

SYMPOSIUM 4: OSTEOPOROSIS - Isla Ballroom 2 & 3 - (Supported by Aventis Pharma, Inc.)
2:00 – 2:45 Individualised Therapy of Postmenopausal
Osteoporosis - Prof. Markus J. Seibel, MD, PhD (Australia)
2:45 - 3:15 Osteoporosis in Men - Dr. Mary Anne Lim-Abrahan

3:15 – 3:30 Open Forum

PLENARY SESSION 3 (Supported by Organon Phils., Inc.)
3:30 – 4:15 Polyglandular Autoimmune Syndromes and
Associations to Sarcoidosis - Dr. Konstantinos I. Papadopoulos, PhD (Greece)

4:15 - Closing

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GOODIES from the Americans represented by Brig. Gen. Donald Wurster including sports equipment are turned over to Zamboanga City Mayor Maria Clara Lobregat (at right). Sgt. David Christensen (above) examines Fergie Tindoc during a medical mission in Lamitan, Basilan. EDWIN BACASMAS AND ERNIE SARMIENTO

US wants more troops here

From page A1

fore midnight Friday in a jungle off Bolansa village in Lantawan town. The shooting lasted about 15 minutes.

Brig. Gen. Donald Wurster, commander of US troops training Filipinos, said a Pave Hawk and crew with night vision goggles, took the dead soldier and his three wounded comrades to a military hospital in Zamboanga City.

Wurster said the Americans were not involved in the fighting and didn't come under fire.

"Philippine soldiers were engaged in combat and the American forces reacted after the combat was over to take them back to the hospital," he said at a news briefing.

"There was an operation when our assistance was requested for some wounded Philippine soldiers and we supported that request, of course."

Detoyato said the Filipinos were ambushed as they were marching to establish a forward base in Basilan's northwest.

Philippine military officials requested their US counterparts to send helicopters to evacuate the wounded.

Both sides earlier agreed to use Philippine military helicopters for medical evacuations during the day and US helicopters at night.

Philippine military helicopters, handed over by the United States after the Vietnam War, are not capable of flying at night.

Soldiers consider this a crucial disadvantage to the several thousand Filipino troops hunting the Abu Sayyaf bandits in Basilan.

Advantage

Philippine military officials said the US evacuation on Friday showed the advantage of the American military presence in Western Mindanao.

"We're able to perform night evacuation now with the use of US helicopters. That's a big advantage," said Lt. Col. Danilo Servando, also a Southcom spokesperson.

"Previously that was a problem. It's the cause why we had unnecessary deaths before. Some soldiers died of blood loss at night," he said.

Besides the Pave Hawks, the US military has Blackhawks and the massive double-rotored MH-47E Chinooks stationed in Zamboanga City.

The US military has also been providing equipment and weapons to Filipino forces, apart from training them in helicopter night flying, intelligence gathering and combat techniques. ***With reports from Dona Pazzibugan and AP***

Unmanned spy plane meant to destroy Abus, says US general

ZAMBOANGA CITY—Unmanned surveillance aircraft being used by US forces participating in a joint training exercise in Western Mindanao are intended to help the Philippine military destroy Moro bandits, a US general said yesterday.

At least one unmanned aerial vehicle or UAV was brought to Zamboanga City last week by American forces supporting a counterterrorism campaign by Filipino troops against Abu Sayyaf bandits on nearby Basilan island. About 660 US soldiers are training Philippine troops to improve their combat effectiveness but are not involved in the fighting.

US military officials have declined to say exactly where the UAVs would be used.

Brig. Gen. Donald Wurster, who heads the US forces in the southern Philippines, said on Saturday that the unmanned aircraft were meant to help Filipino troops locate and crush the Moro bandits.

"It's one of the tools that we will use to assist General Cimatu to have a full picture of what's going on in Basilan by the ASG so we can help him to destroy them," Wurster said.

Wurster was referring to Lt. Gen. Roy Cimatu, who heads all military forces in the southern Philippines, including a few thousand soldiers waging an offensive against the Abu Sayyaf in Basilan that started in June.

The Gnat UAV deployed in the Philippines is a medium-altitude, long-endurance drone used for reconnaissance, surveillance and target acquisition. ***AP***

Mikey-Angela wedding: celebration of RP art, antiquities, design

From page A1

shell bamboo chairs, also from the Pascual collection of antiquities.

After the church rites, there'll be a luncheon reception in the church garden, which will be fully covered with a tent.

Palace reception

In the evening, the wedding celebration will move to Malacañang where a cocktail reception will be held for about a thousand guests. Pascual's candelabras will deck the cocktail tables with clusters of them in various sizes. Candelabras have become the Pascual design signature. His candelabras come in various designs and materials from antique wood to crystals.

Blooms in peach, white and green will fill the Palace. Pascual, who thrives on surprises, isn't saying what kind of flowers he will be using only that he will source them from Flower Farm.

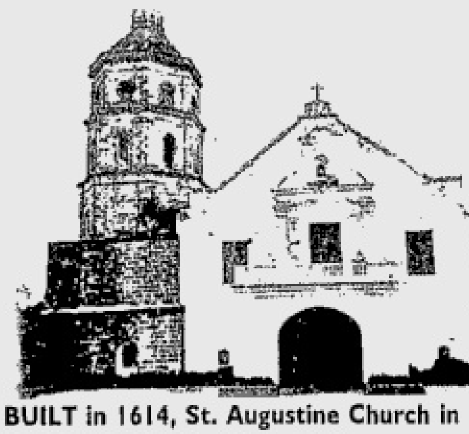
The table settings will carry the wedding's color motif of peach and celadon. Huge celadon and crystal plates will be on cocktail tables. Swiss cotton tablecloths will have peach and celadon fringes. Austrian lace will be used as table overlay.

It is said that the bride's parents Herman and Charito Montenegro have always wanted Pascual to be their wedding designer, since they've been familiar with his expertise. Mrs. Montenegro had close ties to the late Don Luis Araneta, a highly regarded art connoisseur and a pioneer art and antiques collector in the country. Don Luis was the father of Greggy Araneta whose wedding to Ferdinand and Imelda Marcos' daughter Irene in 1983 created a stir not only here but also worldwide, for its pomp and grandeur. Pascual was a close friend of Don Luis and helped design the wedding of Greggy and Irene.

GMA herself

However, it was Ms Macapagal herself who thought of asking Pascual to do her son's wedding, after she saw how he transformed the Manila Polo Club for the launch of Amando Doronila's book three weeks ago.

Pascual had covered the cocktail tables with Swiss-made Egyptian cotton. With the same cloth, he covered the sofa and armchairs where the President and her party sat.



BUILT in 1614, St. Augustine Church in Lubao was completed in 1630.

Fifty dozen roses on oversized crystal platters were spread out on the cocktail tables.

The President liked what she saw and right there and then asked Pascual to design Mikey's wedding. Pascual didn't realize how serious the invitation was until some time later when he got a call from the Palace.

With good friend Ingrid Chua Go, whose wedding last year to Patrick Go he designed, Pascual went to Malacañang to discuss the wedding details. But Pascual is excited that the parents of the bride and groom have pretty much left him on his own to design their children's wedding. Which does not come as a surprise to those who've admired his floral and centerpiece designs.

Pascual is the pioneer in wedding planning from the flowers to the minutest fringe of a tablecloth. Before he came into the lifestyled scene, weddings in the '80s hardly paid attention to flowers, much less to the tablecloth or even china and silverware.

They let the hotels or the venues take care of these. Pascual changed all that by turning weddings and parties into design showcases usually of his art, china and flatware collections.

Pascual pioneered the use of certain design materials in Philippine weddings and parties, notably candelabras, antique laces and Philippine pina, period furniture, even Philippine paintings as backdrop of buffet tables.

Obsessive collector

An obsessive collector since he was a student in Switzerland, Pascual is in a league all his own where collecting art, books and even knick knacks is concerned. His condominium and house are a curiosity at least, and at best, a showcase of Philippine visual arts, art objects, home décor, even fashion.

You name it, he collects it. Through the years, he has never run out of startling finds, usually objects he has kept through the decades. One day, it's leather or Louis Vuitton suitcases from the '50s and '60s; on another, it's Dior or Balenciaga evening wear, or Ramon Valera ternos and gowns; still another day, it's the Op Art fashion accessories of the '60s, voluminous and varied enough to fill a suitcase. For Pascual never throws anything away, not even shopping bags (he has them from the '60s).

Doctorate in chemistry

He first got into collection when as a chemistry student in Switzerland, he'd scour antique shops, bookstores, flea markets for whatever finds, including period furniture, some of which he shipped home and a few of which survive to this day. The whole of Europe, particularly London and Paris, became his hunting ground for art, book, design finds. In Switzerland, he acquired his Diplomate and Doctorate in Chemistry from the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology.

Even after he came home to live here for good, his obsession with the arts never waned. He bought his Lunas, Resurreccion-Hidalgos, Amorsolos and other Filipino masters; he also collects European masterpieces. His works by early Filipino portraitists are many; these portraits of turn-of-the-century Filipinas are hung on the ceiling of his study, not the walls. Of these portrait acquisitions he loves to say, "Their families don't want these grandmothers any longer, so I get them."

He's as unpredictable as the artists he collects so that you'd never know what design concept he'd come up with.

For instance, for the Madrigal wedding in the clan's garden in Quezon City, he turned the swimming pool into a fountain. For the wedding of Edmund Reyes (now congressman) to Camille Sison, he had a balcony built in the Reyes' home.

For the wedding of Margarita Tambunting to Eman Tan-Climaco, he had the cavernous San Sebastian Cathedral candle-lit, using strategically positioned candelabras.

For the Macapagal-Montenegro wedding, it is not presumptuous to say that Pascual will surpass himself and startle even Manila's jaded 400.

Bobi dreads Ping's grilling

From page A1

that Lacson was trying to arrange the payment of ransom to the Abu Sayyaf, which is still holding hostage an American couple and a Filipino nurse.

In turn, Lacson claimed that it was Tiglao and his friends Stef Saño and Jorge Baviera who had profited from mediating in the ransom payments for Abu Sayyaf hostages.

Sotto's seat

Opposition senators have reportedly agreed to "share" among themselves the seats reserved for them at the Commission on Appointments, and Sen. Vicente Sotto will reportedly yield his seat to Lacson at the next session of Congress.

But Tiglao said such an agreement, let alone the prospect of facing Lacson at his confirmation, was news to him.

"I hope, I trust the senators and congressmen . . . will have brief memories," he said jokingly.

Lacson, however, should not be Tiglao's sole worry. He has also exchanged barbs with Senators Teresa Aquino-Oreta and John Osmeña, both from the opposition, in the course of serving as President Macapagal-Arroyo's spokesperson.

Osmeña sits in the Commission of Appointments. Oreta does not, but she was still able to delay the confirmation of Finance Secretary Jose Camacho.

LACSON: One of the inquisitors.

TIGLAO: Taken aback.

But as if to prepare for his certain grilling, Tiglao for the first time said something nice about the opposition's titular head, Joseph Estrada.

Tiglao expressed pity for the ousted President, who, he said, was apparently getting bad advice from friends.

"I understand his situation," said Tiglao, a former reporter. "I've also covered him, and he's not an evil person. He just has to face trial."

"I only hope his advisers would not scare him by telling him to discard the courts. It's wrong advice," Tiglao added.

Non-event

But at the same time, Tiglao said Estrada's trial should be viewed as a "non-event."

Tiglao said the fact that the pro-Estrada protest rally fizzled out Friday was "a good sign" that Filipinos were "starting to mature."

"I believe we're maturing," Tiglao said. "We shouldn't be jumping up and down whenever (Estrada) goes on trial, and using as newspaper headlines what is a non-event."

He said that while the trial of a former president was significant, "it shouldn't be seen as a source of political instability."

Tiglao insisted that Ms Macapagal was not focused on the Estrada issue, as some businessmen had claimed.

"Who is obsessed with Erap, anyway?" he said. "We have been emphasizing that the President is going about her work. She's not focused (on Estrada)."

He said that the other day, police officials no longer apprised the President of Estrada-related events.

"It's not necessary because there's no commotion, no threat," he said.

But days before the March 15 resumption of Estrada's trial, Tiglao claimed that the ex-President's camp would mount "theatrics" to block it, but that the government was prepared for any contingency.

The Philippine National Police also fielded as many as 3,000 policemen in various parts of the metropolis, in anticipation of moves by Estrada's supporters.

STANDING tall before the University of Northern Luzon president Lauro Tacbas. Maryann Rosuman, receives her BS accounting degree and her medal on Thursday.

Standing ovation . . .

From page A1

Her brother Robert works as an official in a soft drinks company in Ilocos Sur. Her sister Lilybeth graduated magna cum laude also from UNP.

Their father, Alfredo, is a supervisor of an agricultural store in Vigan City.

Maryann's mother said she saw how her daughter exerted great effort to get good grades. "She usually slept very late at night to review her lessons," she said.

"I am happy," Maryann said as she tried to hold back her tears.

Climbing stairs

Her teachers and classmates have a high regard for Maryann, who had to painfully climb stairs to get to her classrooms.

"It was painful to see her physical struggle," her teacher Lourdes Reynon said. "But she still constantly came out as the best in class. She is really a rare student who also possesses a beautiful face."

When asked about her immediate plans, Maryann said she would do her best to pass the CPA board exam to get a good job.

Asked what could have caused her daughter's congenital disability, Feliciana said that while she was pregnant with Maryann, she had an intense craving for *longganisa*, a Vigan delicacy.

But Maryann said she had a normal childhood despite her handicap because of the love, attention and care she received from her family.

"I had a very supportive environment," Maryann beamed.

---

6 millionth migrant to Australia reluctant to leave homeland

DONE with the packing in their rented house in Project 8, the Jurados fly out tonight for what they hope would be a better life.

From page A1

a token of goodwill, Qantas has agreed to sponsor the airfare of the family, which is taking a trip abroad for the first time.

Philip Ruddock, minister of Australia's Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, will welcome the Jurados at the Sydney International Airport.

They will sit down to a breakfast meeting with Ruddock and the Australian press. And then they will be escorted to the house of their aunt, Lydia Templeton, who migrated to Australia 13 years ago and who has since been convincing them that the land down under is a better place to live in.

Reluctant

Like millions of other Filipinos before them, the Jurados were reluctant to abandon the land of their birth to seek greener pastures overseas.

"We had never planned on migrating," Cristina admitted to the INQUIRER Friday night.

When he was still in college, Karlos turned down his aunt's offer to sponsor his migration to Australia. He was convinced that he and Cristina could achieve here all that they had planned, through hard work.

"But it's been a long time, and we still don't have anything, not even a house of our own," Karlos said, noting that his cousin, who had taken up his aunt's offer of sponsorship in his stead, already had a stable job and a nice house in Australia.

Both raised in middle-income families, Cristina and Karlos were not among those who needed to take menial jobs abroad to feed themselves. But as in the case of migrant Filipino workers, their unfulfilled dreams were not a result of lack of trying.

Cristina was a systems analyst for a small agency in Manila, and Karlos worked in his family's industrial gas business. The Australian Embassy classified them under the independent/skilled workers category when they applied for migration.

In announcing Australia's six-millionth migrant, the embassy said in a statement: "Mrs. Jurado, the principal visa applicant, represents the young, highly skilled and educated migrants to Australia . . . A comfortable house, good schooling for the children and stable jobs suited to the couple's skills—these are all simple yet achievable dreams of the Jurados . . . "

Cristina worked on the migration application starting in February and was able to complete the requirements only last August.

She said the process required constant follow-up and an application fee of P30,000.

Scared

Surveying their luggage, Cristina admitted to being scared.

But she said she and Karlos would brave an uncertain future in a promising land than have their children grow up in "a country where even 5-year-olds are raped, the pollution will kill you and . . . the authorities cannot be trusted, where it's just not safe anymore."

"All that the children know is that they will ride a plane for the first time," Cristina said. "They don't know how uncertain our life there will be. But this is all for (their) sake. They will have a better future there."

In Sydney, the Jurados will shuttle from one relative's house to another until Cristina or Karlos finds a job and a small house that they can rent for the time being.

The two are counting on the Lord to sustain the family, especially the children, until their plans fall into place.

The Jurados' arrival is just in time for Harmony Day, which Australia marks annually to honor its multicultural society. Harmony Day is celebrated on March 21, coinciding with the United Nations Day for Eliminating Racial Discrimination.

"A long time I have been praying to the Lord to take care of my children—where they will go, how they will live," said Karlos' mother Elizabeth. "It dawned on me only recently that this is the answer to my prayers. I know the Lord will take care of them."

Elizabeth plans to visit her grandchildren after two years, when the Jurados officially become citizens of the land of migrants.

People from more than 180 countries have settled in Australia, representing 24 percent of its population. Almost 200 languages, including the indigenous ones, are spoken there.

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Nippon Life exec scores ace

SHIGERU Noma, president and CEO of Nippon Life Philippines, gave himself a fitting sendoff to his new assignment when he scored an ace last March 12 at the Manila Golf Club. Noma aced the 154-yard 11th hole using a Mizuno T-Zoid 7-iron and Precept No. 2 ball.

Sunday SPORTS

Editor Al S. Mendoza ◎ Assistant Editor Edwin M. Villanueva

Interclub on Golf Power

GOLF Power features today the first segment of the two-part television special on the highlights of the 55th Philippine Airlines Interclub golf tournament held recently in Bacolod City. Now on its sixth year, the show is aired every Sunday, 3 p.m., on IBC-13.

SAMSUNG CUP

Talk N Text downs Gin

By June Navarro

GAMES TODAY: Araneta Coliseum
3:45p.m.—Selecta-RP vs FedEx
5:45p.m.—Red Bull vs Sta. Lucia

TALK N TEXT overcame a barrage of turnovers and Barangay Ginebra's fierce chase to escape with an 87-82 win yesterday in the PBA Samsung Governors Cup at the Cuneta Astrodome.

Victor Pablo drained a crucial trey while Kenny Evans made a thief-like swipe in the last 20 seconds as the Phone Pals tallied their fourth straight win after five games to share second-place honors with Batang Red Bull.

"It was a huge three-point shot by Pablo while Evans was equally impressive with that steal on (Bal) David," said Talk N Text coach Bill Bayno.

With the game tied at 82 and the clock fast winding down, Pablo buried a triple from the left flank to keep the Phone Pals above water.

The Kings sued for time but Mark Caguioa made an ill-advised inbound pass to David that Evans easily knocked away to send Barangay Ginebra plunging down to its second straight debacle.

The Kings are now in a three-cornered fight at the bottom of the standings, sharing identical 1-5 records with Shell and Selecta-RP Team.

Richie Frahm and Gerald Honeycutt again lit the scoreboards, combining for 43 points for the Phone Pals, who became the first squad to win four straight games this season.

Bayno, however, believes that the locals were the pivotal ingredients in the Phone Pals' winning run.

"As long as the locals step up we will continue to win games because the imports cancel each other out," he said.

In the second game, Coca-Cola routed Alaska, 79-53, to improve to 5-2, a game behind league-leader Purefoods and a victory ahead of Red Bull and Talk N Text. The Aces dropped to 3-3 in a tie with Federal Express.

The Scores:

TALK N TEXT 87—Frahm 22, Honeycutt 21, Pablo 16, Telan 10, Evans 7, Lago 6, Gonzales 4, Demape 1.

GINEBRA 82—Fergusson 29, Gee 19, David 13, Limpot 8, Caguioa 5, Magtulis 4, Meneses 4, Helterbrand 0.

Quarters: 18-22, 45-48, 69-65, 87-82

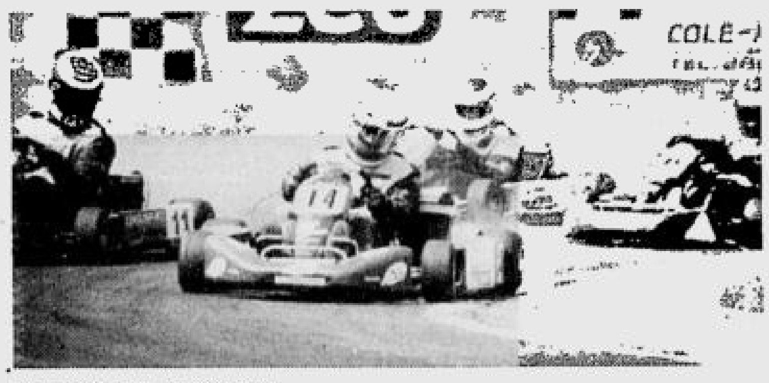
Shooting range opens

THE PHILIPPINE National Shooting Association, with its Moving Target Aggrupation, opens its Trap and Skeet Range at the Manila Harbour Center in Vitas, Tondo, today.

PNSA chair Ildefonso "Boy" Tronqued and president Arturo Macapagal will lead the inaugural rites together with Philippine Sports Commission chair Eric R. Buhain and Philippine Olympic Committee president Celso Dayrit as special guests.

Since 1995, the PNSA Trap and Skeet Range was located in San Fernando, Pampanga and national shooting team members found that this was not conducive for their regular rigorous training as most of them are based in Manila.

MTA chair James Chua and director Ramon Corral immediately acted on the athletes' concerns while trap shooter Reghis Romero III of R-II Builders Inc., likewise recognizing the importance of the private sector lending support to national athletes, allowed the trap and skeet range to be built on their property in Manila.



KARTING ACTION

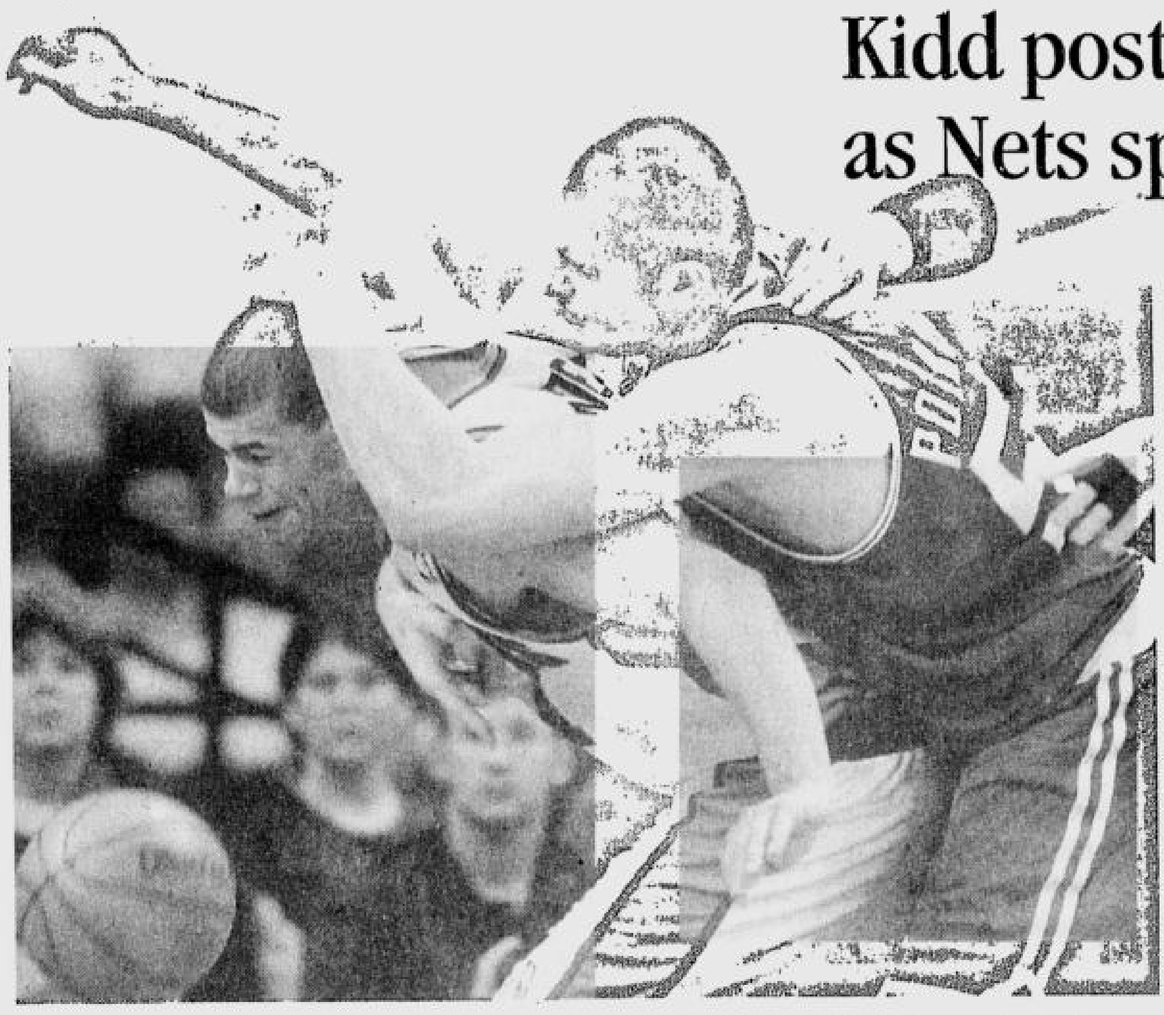
Edgesports's Ryan Francisco (No. 14) leads teammate Jeremy Marquez (No. 11) in the second leg of the 2002 Shell Karting Super Series at the Carmona Circuit Philippines. The event was sponsored by Pilipinas Shell, Casino Filipino, Bridgestone, Zed, Nokia and Coca-Cola Bottlers. Marquez eventually overtook Francisco to prevail in the Intercon-A class.

Compton gives MBA boost

HARTMAN Underfashion image model Alex Compton of the Batangas Blades recently toured several store outlets to promote his underwear brand and the coming season of the MBA.

Compton visited Hartman display areas at SM North Edsa, Isetann Cubao, Robinson's Galleria, SM Megamall, and Crossings at Edsa Shangri-La.

The Hartmann endorser will again lead the Blades in defending their title in the MBA starting April 6.



MEMPHIS Grizzlies' Shane Battier (left) gets a hard foul from Boston' Vitaly Potapenko in the second half of the Celtics' 103-97 win Friday. AP

Knight team out; Florida upset

NEW YORK—No fourth straight Final Four for Michigan State. The team it beat for the 2000 U.S. college basketball title, Florida, is gone, too.

And Bob Knight's recent NCAA tournament trouble followed him to Texas Tech.

Still, in a respite from bracket-busting, most first-round games went according to form Friday.

The only true stunner was 12th-seeded Creighton's elimination of Florida, 83-82, in double overtime on Terrell Taylor's 3-pointer with 0.2 seconds left in a Midwest Regional opener.

Add in Missouri's victory over Miami, and Tulsa's upset of Marquette—both Thursday—and it's the first time three No. 12s won first-round games in the same NCAA tourney.

"People make names for themselves when they win games like this," Creighton center Brody Deren said. "We have more to prove because we are a mid-major team, and we chalk this up for all the mid-majors."

Creighton will face fourth-seeded Illinois, which rolled past San Diego State, 93-64. In another Midwest game, third-seeded Mississippi State beat McNeese State, 70-58.

Even Michigan State's loss wasn't an upset, since the Spartans had a mediocre-for-them season and were seeded 10th in the East Regional. They lost to North Carolina State, 69-58.

Southern Illinois, seeded 11th in the East, dealt Knight his fifth first-round loss in his last seven trips to the NCAAs, beating sixth-seeded Texas Tech, 76-68.

There were some boos when Knight took the floor for the game, and one Southern Illinois fan held up a sign reading, "'Hey Knight, What's Up?' Salukis." Indiana fired Knight in September 2000 after Knight grabbed the arm of a student who said, "What's up, Knight?" *AP*

Athletics body gets support

POOR quality equipment contributes to poor performance—that's the stark reality in sporting life. Unfortunately, this holds true in Philippine sports particularly at the grassroots level.

That's what Sonia Trading, the sports equipment firm which has been a partner in Philippine sports for 40 years now, found out when it made a marketing study last year on the kind of equipment used by up-and-coming athletes.

"We feel the need to improve the standard of the sports equipment our young athletes use," said Sonia Trading president Kay Sham. "More than business, it has become a commitment for us to bring only the best for our athletes."

In that line, Sonia Trading has brought to the country Nelco Industries, an India-based company which produces track and field equipment that are certified by the International Amateur Athletics Federation.

"We are one of the largest IAAF-certified firms in the world, but we also take pride that, unlike others, we have maintained our prices at a reasonable level," said Nelco Industries president Adarsh Anand.

Kidd posts 7th TD as Nets spank Heat

EAST RUTHERFORD, New Jersey—Keith Van Horn scored 28 points and Jason Kidd had his seventh triple-double of the season and the 45th of his career as New Jersey defeated Miami, 97-78.

Kidd finished with 11 points, 14 assists and 12 rebounds and Kenyon Martin added 14 points but picked up another flagrant foul as the Nets won their seventh straight at home.

Martin's flagrant foul for shoving Jim Jackson in the second quarter could be costly if the call by referee Dan Crawford is upheld. Martin already has been suspended for four games because of his rough play, and faces a one-game suspension for each subsequent flagrant foul.

Hawks 104, Suns 89

In Atlanta, Shareef Abdur-Rahim scored 33 points and Toni Kukoc added 23 as the Atlanta Hawks sent the Suns to their sixth straight road loss.

Winning their third straight win and fourth in seven games, the Hawks (25-39) matched their victory total for last season–the worst in franchise history.

Magic 124, Nuggets 102

In Orlando, Florida, Tracy McGrady had 30 points, nine assists, seven rebounds and a career-high six steals as the Magic defeated Denver in a game that featured Tim Hardaway throwing a television monitor onto the court.

Lakers 98, Clippers 92

In Los Angeles, Kobe Bryant scored 14 of his 33 points in the final 6:19 Friday night as the Lakers rallied over their cross-town rivals, the Clippers.

The Clippers scored 17 straight points for a 76-66 lead before the Lakers outscored them, 32-16, to finish the game. *AP*

COMPLETE RESULTS

Atlanta 104, Phoenix 89; Orlando 124, Denver 102; New Jersey 97, Miami 78; Boston 103, Memphis 97; Utah 100, Detroit 97; Indiana 98, Minnesota 85; Washington 103, Seattle 98; L.A. Lakers 98, L.A. Clippers 92. *AP*

PSA to receive Elorde citation

FOUR entities which contributed to the development of professional boxing over the years and a boxing personality who is considered the oldest trainer in the boxing circuit will receive special citations during the second Flash Elorde Annual Awards, March 25 at the Hotel Intercontinental.

The recipients are the TV programs Blow by Blow and In This Corner, the L&M gym in Sampaloc, Manila, the Philippine Sportswriters Association and veteran trainer Emilio Pascual.

Blow by Blow features the outstanding local and international bouts by top Philippine and world champions on IBC 13. In This Corner is a new boxing show which focuses on top as well as upcoming boxers, as well as those starting a boxing career while the PSA has, on three occasions held the Fiesta fistiana to raise funds for disabled boxers.

The Elorde Awards will also present recognition to the 75-year-old Pascual, the grand old man of boxing who trained former world boxing champions Pedro Adigue, Ben Villaflor and Bobby Berna.

Highlight of the Elorde Boxing Awards, held for the second straight year in honor of boxing legend Gabriel "Flash" Elorde and is sponsored by Family Rubbing Alcohol, Centrum, PCSO, Pagcor, Enervon Prime and Philippine Airlines is the presentation of the Boxer-Of-The-Year Award to IBF World Jr. Featherweight champion Manny Pacquiao, 14 other world and international champions and 18 Philippine champions.

The Annual Awards will be graced by National Security Adviser Roilo S. Golez, who will also deliver the keynote address to the boxing community.

Fair and Square awards today at MJC

LAST year's top performers will be honored today during the Fair and Square Awards at the Turf Room of the Manila Jockey Club.

Named after the great 1981 Horse of the Year, the event serves as the highlight event of the Philracom's two-week anniversary celebration which will be capped by the running of two P1-million races—the Commissioner's Cup this afternoon and the Chairman's Cup next Sunday.

Champion Wind Blown, considered a cinch to bag the prestigious Horse of the Year plum, banners and stellar field in the Commissioner's Cup, to be held in honor of former Philracom Commissioner and veteran journalist, Enrique "Pocholo" P. Romualdez.

A total of 11 Fair and Square Awards will be handed out in various categories, including the title for Champion Juvenile (2-year-old). Champion Juvenile Filly, champion 3-year-old Colt, Champion 3-year-old Filly, Champion Older Horse, champion Older Mare/Distaff, Stallion of the Year, Jockey of the Year, Horse Trainer of the Year, Horse Breeder of the Year and the highlight Horse of the Year award.

In addition to the 'Fair and Square Awards,' the Philracom will also be giving special awards to some of the industry's foremost benefactors like PCSO chair Ma. Livia "Honeygirl" S. De Leon, PCSO vice chair and general manager Virgilio R. Angelo and Pagcor chair Ephraim C. Genuino.

In defense of J.R.

ONE WINNER

Edwin Villanueva

J.R. "Racing" Cabansag never ceases to amaze *kareristas* with his style of calling the races.

However, J.R. ends up being suspended most of the time for reasons only his MJCI bosses know.

A reader from Sta. Ana, Manila, writes to defend J.R. regarding his "Ala eh, it's Batangas Entry" ad lib. Here it is.

Dear Sir:

Greetings!

Watching the recently concluded Philtobo Gintong Lahi races at MJCI was indeed very exciting. However, I could not help but notice the absence of one of the club's announcers—Mr. J. R. Cabansag.

I gathered from reports that last 17 Feb., the board of stewards at MJCI suspended him for his ad lib "Ala eh, Batangas Entry" on Race 7. Batangas Entry won that particular race.

I'm writing this letter in behalf of my many racing friends who do not find anything wrong, offensive or disgraceful with the concerned remark. The truth is it adds more flavor, color, excitement, humor and wit, for race calling is a big factor to that.

For what would life be without life's simple pleasures of fun and humor. Can you imagine a horse race in process that is silent without an announcer or being called by someone with a squeaky voice or called but guided by a set of words allowed by the stewards?

As I see it, race callers are like entertainers to a certain extent. They are like the hosts of a show and to be effective should be given more freedom and flexibility in exercising their profession.

Even in basketball, sportscasters use terms like Jaworski, the Living Legend, or Samboy Lim, the Skywalker, etc. This is also true in boxing, swimming, track and field and many others. If my memory does not fail me, Mr. Cabansag originally ad libbed "Ala eh, it's Batangas Entry" last Oct. 14, 2001 when said horse defeated Silver Story in a big upset. The following day and I know you will recall, the PDI published a photo of the winning horse in the sports page with a banner "Ala eh, it's Batangas Entry." In short, even PDI adopted the ad libbed word.

Sir, please forgive my ignorance, but if there is such a rule in the use of ad libs in race calling, don't you think it's about time we amend or repeal such? The bottom line should be the racing public's acceptance of the use of such ad libs and judging from the reactions of many, *tuwang tuwa pa ang karamihan kasama na ang* owner *at* trainer of the winning horse. Another observation and with all due respect, Mr. Peter Morrison, whom many regard as a living legend in race calling, uses many adjectives and ad libs. A few months ago, in one of the stakes races wherein Wind Blown ran, he described one of the tail enders (a stayer) of the particular race as "waiting for a cab" and when Wind Blown grabbed the lead into the homestretch, he blurted: "Ladies and gentlemen, you may now start to cheer, don't be shy for Wind Blown is now in the lead—the greatest of them all" etc. Of course this line was adopted by our local callers in Wind Blown's succeeding runs and I do not see anything wrong with it. In fact it improves their efficiency.

The point is they should be allowed to think of their own in order to maintain originality in compliment with the Filipino custom and culture. "Ala eh," Batangueñong Batangueño *ang dating, di po ba?*

Sir, in writing this letter perhaps, I could help in my own small way the less privileged sector of the racing community, who may have the feeling of being oppressed because they are poor.

I'm hoping that with the issues raised, we are able to give some compassion to a race caller who just wants to put food on the family table.

Thank you and more power!

R.O. Peña
Sta. Ana, Manila

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2002 F1World Championship - Malaysian Grand Prix at 2:45 p.m. (r – 10:45 p.m.) on Star Sports
Chequered Flag - Malaysian Grand Prix at 5 p.m. on Star Sports
BASKETBALL: NBA Inside Stuff at 7:30 a.m. (r) on Star Sports
US NCAA - 2002 Postseason NIT Tournament at 11 a.m. (r) on ESPN
The Basketball Show at 2 p.m. on RPN 9
NBA – Denver Nuggets vs Miami Heat at 9:10 p.m. on NBN 4
TENNIS: Pacific Life Open, Men's Quarterfinal Match #2 at 8 p.m. (r), Men's Semifinal Match #1 at 6 p.m., Match #2 at 8 p.m. on Star Sports

Tiger moves ahead

WOODS pumps his fist after birdieing the first hole. AP

ORLANDO, Florida —Tiger Woods is in great position for a repeat - not just another victory in the Bay Hill Invitational, but a return to top form with the Masters approaching.

In what he called his best round of the year, Woods birdied five of the first 10 holes and wound up with a 7-under 65 on Friday, giving him a four-shot lead over Scott McCarron heading into the weekend in the Bay Hill Invitational.

"I feel comfortable with the lead," Woods said. "I would always much rather be in the lead, because then you can always make a mistake and still win."

His only mistake on a hot, sunny day was a bogey on No. 8 after hitting into the trees and having to pitch out sideways. That ended a streak of 76 holes without a bogey dating to the 12th hole in the second round at Doral.

Woods was at 12-under 132 and had the third-largest lead after 36 holes in his career. He led the 2000 NEC Invitational by seven shots and the U.S. Open at Pebble Beach by six shots after two rounds, both times going on to win by double digits.

McCarron had a bogey-free 67 and was at 136, with Ernie Els (67) and Angel Cabrera of Argentina (70) another stroke back. John Daly had a 71 and was at 138.

Told that Woods said it was the best he has played this year, McCarron cracked, "I hope it is. He's 12 under. If he came in and said he's 12 under and playing bad, I'd be worried."

There are other reasons to worry.

Woods is usually at his best on the weekend at Bay Hill, closing with 66-69 a year ago to beat out Phil Mickelson, and 67-70 the year before to defeat Davis Love III.

McCarron is coming off consecutive runner-up finishes, at the Nissan Open and the Match Play Championship, and a week of skiing apparently didn't hurt him too badly. **AP**

Scott grabs lead

DOHA, Qatar—Australian Adam Scott carded a superb 66 Friday for an 11-under halfway total of 133, opening up a 3-stroke lead after two rounds of the $1.5 million Qatar Masters.

First-round leaders Klas Eriksson of Sweden and Anders Hansen of Denmark and Jose Manuel Lara of Spain shared second at 8-under 136, followed by a group at 7-under that included seven-time European money leader Colin Montgomerie of Scotland. **AP**

Annika hangs on

PHOENIX—Annika Sorenstam shot a 2-under-par 70 in cold conditions Friday for a share of the lead with Kim Saiki halfway through the Ping Banner Health. Sorenstam won last year with LPGA Tour-record scores of 59 in the second round and 27-under 261 for four rounds. **AP**

Sampras, Hewitt set up rematch

INDIAN WELLS, California—Reigning US Open champion Lleyton Hewitt and Pete Sampras set up a rematch of their Flushing Meadows final Friday as they advanced to the semifinals of the $2.95-million Tennis Masters Series here.

Hewitt, the top seed, downed unseeded Swede Thomas Enqvist 6-4, 6-4, while 10th-seeded Sampras beat unseeded German Rainer Schuttler 6-2, 6-4.

Wildcard Todd Martin upset second seed Yevgeny Kafelnikov 7-6 (7/5), 6-3 to line up a semi-final clash with ninth-seeded Briton Tim Henman, a 6-3, 6-2 winner over Argentina's Gaston Gaudio.

"You can never write Pete off," Hewitt said of Sampras, even though the American is seeking his first tournament title since capturing his 13th Grand Slam singles crown at Wimbledon in 2000.

Hewitt's victory over Sampras in the US Open final last September insured 2001 was the first year Sampras went without a Grand Slam title since 1992. ***AFP***

Manila Amateur at Wack Wack starts April 23

COMING on the heels of the successful staging of the 87th Philippine Open, Wack Wack is set to host another major competition.

Dubbed as the inaugural Manila Amateur, the tourney set for April 23 to 26 is expected to feature not just the brightest talents in the country today but players of all levels.

"This is really for amateur golf development. Not only is this tournament a good way for our current stars to be able to hone their skills but it also provides an opportunity for other amateurs to experience what it is like to play under tournament conditions," said Nick Tuason, who is one of the key figures behind the project the other being Wack Wack golf director Bones Floro.

Floro was also tournament director of the recent Open won by Canadian Rick Gibson.

Tuason said that several companies have signified their intention to put up a bonanza of prizes to be raffled off during a gala awards ceremony. They are Bridgestone/Tour Stage, Cleveland Golf, Adams Golf, OGIO bags, Ben Hogan and Northwest Airlines.

The Manila Amateur will have a medal play format both for the men's and seniors divisions. The men's entries will be classified according to their handicaps with 0-5 (Championship), 9-10 (Class A), 11-15 (Class B) and 16-20 (Class C). Seniors A will be those 0-9 handicappers and Seniors B for 10-18.

Those in the championship class will play for 72 holes and the rest for 36 holes.

Registration will commence on April 1 at all PACSPORTS outlets at Wack Wack, Manila Golf, Alabang, Valley, Capitol, Legaspi Village, Robinson's Galleria and Festival Mall. Entry fee is P2,500.

Mimosa to host Rotary Challenge

THE ANNUAL tournament series of the Rotary Golf Fellowship Foundation of the Philippines (RGFFP) expands further with a summer bash, the Rotary Corporate Challenge, slated April 18-19 at the Mimosa Golf and Country Club in Clark Field, Pampanga.

RC Angeles Centro is jointly hosting the tourney with the RGFFP that will be in addition to the previous leg held in Baguio, another in the south and an overseas exposure late this year.

Clark Development Corporation is backing the event as a major sponsor.

The RGFFP committee is introducing a concept in team play where three Rotarians can include a guest in their team.

Tournament fee is P3,500 per player for early birds (up to April 1) and P4,000 for late registrants (up to April 10) and guests.

For inquiries, interested corporate teams or Rotary clubs may call Pancho Perea or Erica Pekson of the RGFFP Secretariat at tel. no. 721-8896 or 7210564 (local 31). Fax. No. is 721-8896.

Q'finals today

JANSPORT-KICKERS faces Mr. Quickie, Sportshouse battles GNC Live Well, Oceanic-Lhuillier tackles Toby's and Memory Magic meets Kameraworld in the quarterfinals of the Burlington-PRA Cup today at the Camp Crame gym in Quezon City.

Jansports, Sportshouse, Oceanic and Memory Magic teams enjoy a twice-to beat advantage over their respective opponents by virtue of finishing in the top four bracket.

Any knockout game necessary will be played on March 22 while the semis will be on March 24 and the finals on March 31.

In the women's free throw shooting contest of the Burlington-sponsored league, those who advanced in the quarterfinals are the following: GNC, Jimac, Memory Magic, Mr. Quickie, Sportshouse, Jansport and Toby's.

BLAST FROM THE PAST

TODAY in 1991, Western Visayas captured 38 golds to clinch the 1991 Palarong Pambansa plum in Iloilo City. Also today in 1992, Tiger Ari knocked out South Korean Dongsup Shung in the fifth round to win the Orient Pacific Boxing Federation junior lightweight crown in South Korea.

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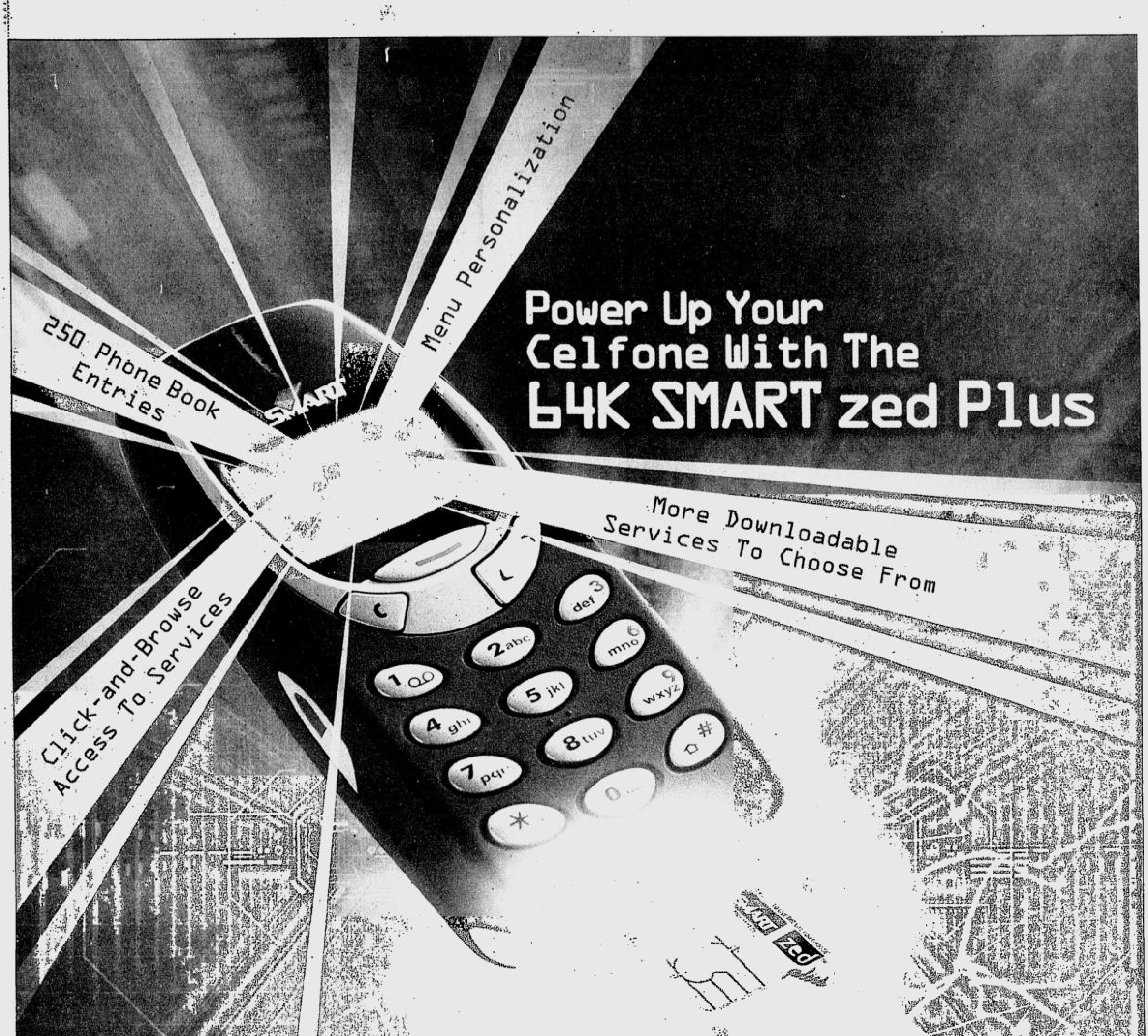
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Busy summer in Manila

MANILA Mayor Lito Atienza yesterday directed barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan officials to organize youth summer programs. He also directed the Manila Parks and Recreation Bureau, the police and other city agencies to ensure that parks and playgrounds are safe and clean, especially during the summer break. *Jerome Aning*

METRO

Editor **Louie C. Camino**

Cleared in frat slay, he vows to campaign vs frat violence

NARAG DENNIS SABANGAN

By Agnes E. Donato

AFTER seven years in jail and finally being cleared of involvement in a fraternity killing, Raymund Narag aims to rebuild his life and win back his former girlfriend.

He also vows to campaign against fraternity violence for the rest of his life.

Now 27, Narag was 20 when Sigma Rho member Dennis Venturina was killed in 1994 in fraternity violence on the University of the Philippines campus. Five of Narag's fraternity brothers in Scintilla Juris were recently convicted for the Venturina murder.

Narag, a UP cum laude graduate in public administration, and four other Scintilla Juris members were acquitted.

"It all seems like a dream," Narag said 15 days after he walked out of jail. "I still fear all the time that I'd wake up one morning to the sound of prison bells, like I always did for the past seven years that I was behind bars.

"Somehow, I felt like my life stopped from the time I was tagged in the case to the moment the court finally ordered my release. My dreams were all stalled. There are many things I could have accomplished."

Narag said there were times when he got so bitter about his detention that he started wishing that he could undo everything he had done in his life.

"It was during my fourth year in jail," he recalled. "Our hearings were being postponed. No one had been visiting me, except for my family. I felt like the walls were closing in on me. I thought I should have just stayed in Cagayan and not studied in UP and I shouldn't have joined a fraternity.

"I even wished I was never born at all," he added.

But he finally chose not to wallow in his pain. He said prisoners were far from people's common misconception of them as "the living dead."

"There are actually many things an inmate can do in jail, given the right perspective," he said.

Narag himself wrote articles, which were eventually published, about prison life and the programs he initiated in jail. He led the advocacy group Kapit Bisig 2000 Inc., which sought to develop the wellbeing of inmates through a reform program that included counseling, livelihood projects and educational seminars.

Through paralegal work, his group helped fellow inmates whose cases were being neglected.

"Every week, we organized activities like singing and dancing contests and even beauty pageants just to entertain ourselves and to keep our humanity," Narag said.

Even through the occasional riots which he also helped resolve, Narag was able to obtain masteral units in public management and take a course on personal entrepreneurial development through the UP Open University program.

He recently met with UP President Francisco Nemenzo to discuss the awarding of his graduation honors and to seek Nemenzo's help in his proposed campaign against fraternity violence.

He said he is planning to initiate forums to enlighten the new generation of fraternity members about the dangers of perpetuating the culture of violence.

"I want it to be a sincere effort in eradicating frat violence, an effort that will not just be for show and will involve members of different fraternities," Narag maintained.

As for the friends he made in prison, Narag said he would not stop helping them. He still goes to the Quezon City Jail everyday to visit them and continue the programs he started there.

"It seems like I cannot take prison life out of my system just yet," he said.

3 dumps closed

THE DEPARTMENT of Environment and Natural Resources has ordered the closure of three open dumpsites in Cavite and Rizal after residents complained the dumps discharge toxic smoke and fumes.

Environment Secretary Heherson Alvarez issued notices of violations to the mayors of Angono in Rizal, and Tanza and Naic in Cavite after fact-finding teams from the National Waste Solid Management Commission confirmed the presence of dumpsites in the areas.

The dumps are in Barangay Sahud Ulan in Tanza, Barangay Sabang in Naic, and Barangay San Isidro in Angono.

Cease and desist orders were also issued to Mayors Raymundo del Rosario of Tanza, Efren Nazareno of Naic, and Gerardo Calderon of Angono.

Alvarez cited possible violations of Republic Act No. 9003 or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000.

He asked the three mayors to explain in writing within seven days why their offices "should not be penalized with P500,000 for having committed an act which violates the law." *Gerald G. Lacuarta*

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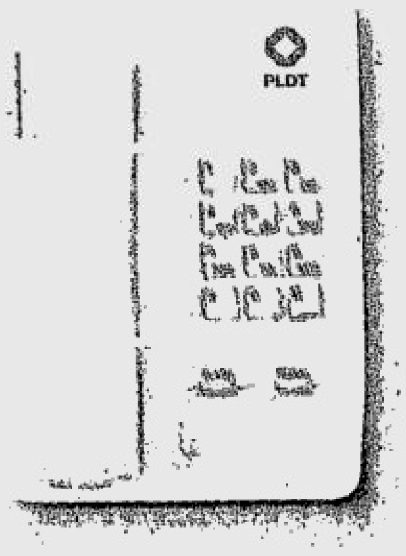

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2 BATAS NG LANSANGAN
3 EVA
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL) QUEEN OF THE DAMNED
5 BIBINGKA

METROPOLIS star
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1 EVA
2 GOT 2 BELIEVE
3 BIBINGKA
4 WE WERE SOLDIERS
5 BATAS NG LANSANGAN
6 QUEEN OF THE DAMNED
7
8

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LUCASFILM THX
(Makati City) TEL. 751-2010 TO 13

1 QUEEN OF THE DAMNED

Center Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1 BATAS NG LANSANGAN
2 GOT 2 BELIEVE

FCM FAIRVIEW CENTER MALL, INC.
tel 930.9515

1
2 BIBINGKA
3 EVA

Spring
(Libertad, Pasay City) tel 831.7864

1 EVA
A QUEEN OF THE DAMNED

Sunshine
(FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376

1 QUEEN OF THE DAMNED
2 GOT 2 BELIEVE
3 RESERVE
4 EVA

GOTESCO CINEMA

Gotesco City
(Manila) tel 734.8588

1 (DOLBY) D-TOX
2 RESERVE
3 RESERVE
4 BIBINGKA
5 NOT ANOTHER TEEN MOVIE
6 EVA
7 (DTS) QUEEN OF THE DAMNED
8 (SDDS) WE WERE SOLDIERS
9 (DOLBY) SHIPPING NEWS

Gotesco Caloocan
tel 362.3508

2 BIBINGKA

Gotesco Grand Central
(Caloocan) tel 364.3781

1 BATAS NG LANSANGAN
2 BIBINGKA
3 EVA
4 (SDDS) D-TOX
5 GOT 2 BELIEVE
6 (DOLBY) WE WERE SOLDIERS
7 (DTS) QUEEN OF THE DAMNED
8 ESKANDALOSA
9 NOT ANOTHER TEEN MOVIE

Gotesco Commonwealth
tel 951.0083

1 (DTS) WE WERE SOLDIERS
2 BATAS NG LANSANGAN
3 EVA
4 GOT 2 BELIEVE
5 (SDDS) D-TOX
6 BIBINGKA
7 (DOLBY) QUEEN OF THE DAMNED
8 ESKANDALOSA

Gotesco Ortigas
tel 656.6795

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2 WE WERE SOLDIERS
3 (DTS) QUEEN OF THE DAMNED
4 BIBINGKA
5 (SDDS) D-TOX

Universal
(Manila) tel 733.2470

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Sampaquita
(Cubao) tel 911.7888

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1 QUEEN OF THE DAMNED
2 BATAS NG LANSANGAN
3 EVA

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1 (DOLBY) QUEEN OF THE DAMNED
2 WE WERE SOLDIERS
3 EVA
4 GOT 2 BELIEVE
5 BIBINGKA

New Divisoria Mall
DIVISORIA CINEMA
tel 244.4619

1 RESERVE
2 RESERVE
3 RESERVE
4 RESERVE
5 RESERVE
6 RESERVE

FRC Cinema
Talaba Bacoor Cavite

1 ACCIDENTAL SPY
2

Berma
tel 879.2029

1 EVA
2 QUEEN OF THE DAMNED

CitiMall
(Parañaque) tel 820.7269

1 RESERVE
2 RESERVE

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa Laguna)
tel (049) 534.2185 / 534.2198

1 ESKANDALOSA
2 WE WERE SOLDIERS
3 (DTS) D-TOX

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1 GOT 2 BELIEVE
2 (DTS) LORD OF THE RINGS
3 (DOLBY) WE WERE SOLDIERS
4 D-TOX

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146

1 GOT 2 BELIEVE
2 (DOLBY) WE WERE SOLDIERS
3 (DTS) D-TOX
4 LORD OF THE RINGS

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

1 COLLATERAL DAMAGE
2 GOT 2 BELIEVE
3 SOON TO OPEN
4 SOON TO OPEN

Cinema 2000 MetroTown
(Tarlac) tel(045) 982.1729

1 GOT 2 BELIEVE
2 ALI
3 (DOLBY) SHALLOW HAL
4 (DTS) RIDING IN CAR

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS) ACCIDENTAL SPY
2 BIBINGKA
3 EVA
4 (DTS) EARTHQUAKE

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY) WE WERE SOLDIERS
2 GOT 2 BELIEVE
3 (DTS) D-TOX
4 ESKANDALOSA
5 LORD OF THE RINGS

Olivarez Tri-Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883

1 D-TOX
2 WE WERE SOLDIERS
3 ESKANDALOSA

Olivarez Los Baños
tel (049) 249-2558

1 D-TOX
2 WE WERE SOLDIERS
3 ESKANDALOSA

Olivarez Tagaytay
tel (046) 413.0311

1 VANILLA SKY
2 BATAS NG LANSANGAN
3 HINOG SA PILIT

Morales Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.9736

1 THE OTHERS
2 WE WERE SOLDIERS
3 RESERVE

Cabuyao
(Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808

1 (DTS) RESERVE
2 (DTS) ESKANDALOSA

Fourstep
(Cavite) tel (046) 416.2385

1 RESERVE

Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

1 ESKANDALOSA
2 GOT 2 BELIEVE
3 BATAS NG LANSANGAN

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1 RAT RACE
2 13 GHOSTS
3 MOTHMAN PROPHECIES
4 ESKANDALOSA

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1 (DOLBY EX) WE WERE SOLDIERS
2 GOT 2 BELIEVE
3 (DTS) ALI
4 13 GHOSTS

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CMG INTERNATIONAL
PREMIERE CINEMA
THX
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QUEEN OF THE DAMNED

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633- 7641 loc. 279

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2 SHALLOW HAL
3 D-TOX
4 BEAUTIFUL MIND
5 WE WERE SOLDIERS
6 QUEEN OF THE DAMNED
7 ROYAL TENENBAUMS
8 GOT 2 BELIEVE
9 NOT ANOTHER TEEN MOVIE
10 THE SHIPPING NEWS

Ermita
536 -7809- 12

1 QUEEN OF THE DAMNED
2 THE SHIPPING NEWS
3 D-TOX
4 GOT 2 BELIEVE
5 ROYAL TENENBAUMS
6 A BEAUTIFUL MIND
7 WE WERE SOLDIERS

Metro East -
Marcos hway 682- 8193 / 8280

1 D-TOX
2 QUEEN OF THE DAMNED
3 SHIPPING NEWS
4 A BEAUTIFUL MIND
5 WE WERE SOLDIERS
6 NOT ANOTHER TEEN MOVIE
7 GOT 2 BELIEVE
8 SHALLOW HAL

Novaliches
935- 3229 - 30

1 QUEEN OF THE DAMNED
2 QUEEN OF THE DAMNED
3 BEAUTIFUL MIND
4 GOT 2 BELIEVE
5 D-TOX
6 WE WERE SOLDIERS
7 THE SHIPPING NEWS
8 EVA, LASON KAY ADAN

Imus
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1 WE WERE SOLDIERS
2 BIBINGKA
3 D-TOX
4 QUEEN OF THE DAMNED
5 EVA, LASON KAY ADAN
6 GOT 2 BELIEVE

Bacolod
441- 0453 / 0459

1 A BEAUTIFUL MIND
2 SHALLOW HAL
3 GOT 2 BELIEVE
4 13 GHOSTS
5 MARSHALL DICK
6 MOTHMAN PROPHECIES

Iloilo
336- 8077 - 78

1 13 GHOSTS
2 A BEAUTIFUL MIND
3 BATAS NG LANSANGAN
4 MOTHMAN PROPHECIES
5 ESKANDALOSA
6 ALI

Star Mills-
Sn. Fernando, Pamp. 875- 1927
961-5318 / 5270

1 ESKANDALOSA
2 ALI
3 WE WERE SOLDIERS
4 IKAW LAMANG
5 13 GHOSTS
6 13 GHOSTS

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LATE NIGHT SCREENING
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An evening of praise and gospel music

EVANGELIST Steve Kuban

EVANGELIST Steve Kuban headlines an evening of praise music, "Jump for Jesus," at the Greenhills Christian Fellowship Theater at the corner of Ruby and Grant Streets, Ortigas Center, Pasig City (behind Robinson's Galleria).

Kuban, a well-known Canadian worship leader, is doubly excited about his second Manila visit.

"My music is not just for any particular Christian group or denomination," he points out. "It's not even 'just for Christians' at all."

Rather than flaunt his theological and pastoral background, Kuban would rather keep mum about it and play his music. A professional musician for over 25 years now, he has circled the globe in his quest for bring people and cultures closer to God.

His music includes contemporary praise and gospel, as well as varied ethnic sounds such as calypso, reggae and salsa.

He has gotten acclaim for his enthusiastic and anointed musical style.

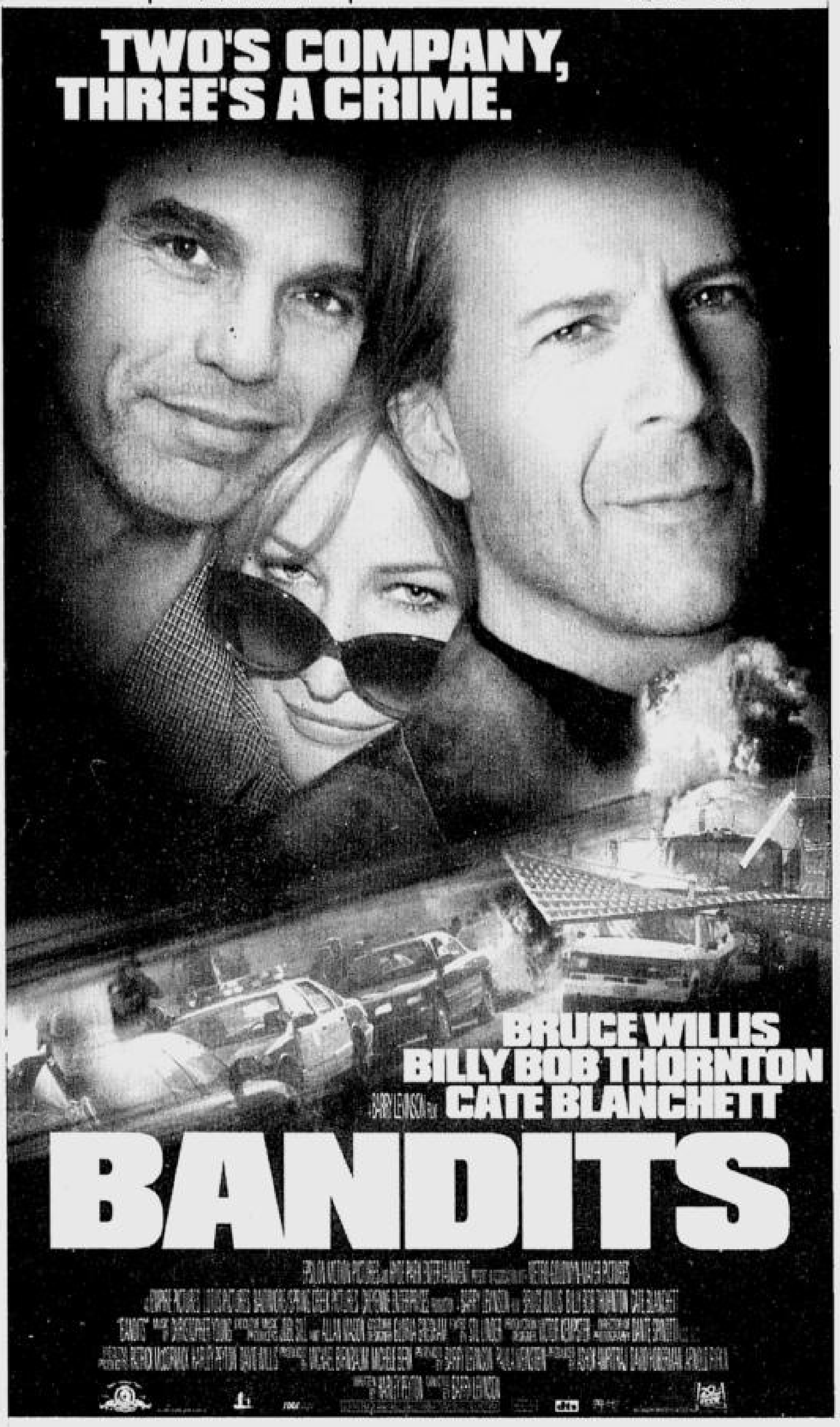
"Think of this concert as a celebration of faith, an unselfish sharing of love, laughter and music and a reminder of our responsibilities not just for ourselves but for other people that we share this world with," Kuban says.

"Jump for Jesus" is mounted by Wilbros Productions as a benefit for Virlanie Foundation Inc., which provides education and shelter to street children. Sponsors are Philippine Airlines, Discovery Suites, Meyers Pharma, Citylite 88.3, RJ 100, 103.5 K-Lite, 702 dzAS, dzRV 846 and Hapee Toothpaste.

For tickets, call 372-6038 to 39.

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

ARANETA CENTER THEATERS 911-3101	
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-1	GOT 2 BELIEVE IN MAGIC
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2	EVA LASON KAY ADAN
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS)	QUEEN OF THE DAMMED
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	WE WERE SOLDIERS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	D - TOX
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	SHIPPING NEWS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7(DOLBY)	A BEAUTIFUL MIND
FARMERS PLAZA-1(DOLBY)	BIBINGKA
FARMERS PLAZA-2(DOLBY)	WE WERE SOLDIERS
FIESTA CARNIVAL	
NEW FRONTIER	
MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	HUBOG / TOO MUCH FLESH
ODEON	WE WERE SOLDIERS
ODEON-2	BATAS NG LANSANGAN
ROBEN	ESKANDALOSA
TANDEM-1	SEX MEDUSA
TANDEM-2	SEX EDUCATION
TIMES	OTHER SIDE OF LOVE / AMERICAN PIE 2
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	CLOSED
ACT-4	CLOSED
CORONET-2	ORIGINAL SIN
QUEZON-1	ESKANDALOSA
REMAR	ESKANDALOSA
REMAR-2	BATAS NG LANSANGAN
NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	BIBINGKA
B	EVA LASON KAY ADAN
C	
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	A BEAUTIFUL MIND
CINEMA-2	QUEEN OF THE DAMNED
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	BATAS NG LANSANGAN
CINEMA-2	ESKANDALOSA
CINEMA-3	BIBINGKA
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	WE WERE SOLDIERS
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	NOT ANOTHER TEEN MOVIE
CINEMA-6	GOT 2 BELIEVE
CINEMA-7	EVA
CINEMA-8	COLLATERAL DAMAGE
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	QUEEN OF THE DAMNED
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	WE WERE SOLDIERS
CINEMA-11(SDDS)	D TOX
CINEMA-12	SHIPPING NEWS
CINEMA-14	GOT 2 BELIEVE
CINEMA-15	BEAUTIFUL MIND
LORES	
CINEMA-2	CLOSED
CINEMA-3	CLOSED
POWER PLANT CINEMA	
CINEMA-1	D-TOX
CINEMA-2	ROYAL TENENBAUMS
CINEMA-3	WE WERE SOLDIERS
CINEMA-4	QUEEN OF THE DAMNED
CINEMA-5	SHIPPING NEWS
CINEMA-6	A BEAUTIFUL MIND
UNIWIDE METROMALL	
(LAS PINAS)	
CINEMA-1	
CINEMA-2	
CINEMA-4	
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARANAQUE)	
CINEMA-1	ALIPIN NG TUKSO
CINEMA-2	THE OTHER SIDE OF LOVE
CINEMA-4	ALAMID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Academy Award-nominees
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THE SHIPPING NEWS
SKYFILMS
MTRCB RATING ▶ PG-13 | Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult

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BEST ACTOR — GENE HACKMAN
"THE FILM OF THE YEAR."
"★★★★
This masterful comedy belongs to Gene Hackman, who gives one of the most remarkable performances of his career."
Danny GLOVER Gene HACKMAN Anjelica HUSTON Bill MURRAY Gwyneth PALTROW Ben STILLER Luke WILSON Owen WILSON
THE ROYAL TENENBAUMS
Touchstone Pictures
MTRCB ▶ PG-13

Prepare to be conned into laughter beginning on WEDNESDAY!
Angie Harmon
Charlie Sheen
Denise Richards
Only a desperate man will take over a woman's job.
Good Advice
SKYFILMS
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Exclusively at Power Plant Cinema, Glorietta 4, SM Megamall
SM Manila, Robinson's Galleria, and Robinson's Ermita

MTRCB RATING R-18 | Strictlyfor ADULTS No one below 18 yrs. may be admitted
PINIPILAHAN...PINAG-UUSAPAN!
"Superb cinematography..." -Ricky Lo (Philippine Star)
"Hindi bastos ang dating..." -Julie Fe Navarro (People's Tonight)
"Barbara Milano, SCANDAL QUEEN..." -Ronald Constantino (Tempo)
"Sobrang init ng Eskandalosa..." -Dondon Sermino (Abante)
"A movie that you ust see in theaters!" -Ed De Leon (Taliba)
eskandalosa
introducing ruby padilla as barbara milano
written & directed by joven m. tan
photographed by romy vitug
FLT FILMS INTERNATIONAL
WARNING:
Hindi puwedeng panoorin ng mga menor de edad.
STRICTLY FOR ADULTS ONLY!

Blessing in disguise

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

ONE of the best things that have happened on the tube is the decision of some channels to reduce the running time of some of their programs, for cost-cutting reasons.

This initial diminution has turned out to be a blessing in disguise because some of the shortened shows have become tighter and more eventful as the result of the paring-down of their running time.

This is all to the good because the 90-minute sitcoms and dramas of old were really only 60-minute scripts that were stretched out to fill the additional minutes so that the shows would make more advertising money to pay the huge talent fees that their big stars demanded.

Now that some shows have been cut down 60 or even 30 minutes, they use up less taping time in the studios, and their plots develop at a brisker pace, which viewers like.

The example was first set by the Mexican *telenovelas*, which fairly hummed along, developing major and minor plots in only 30 minutes. They showed up the laziness and rominative style of local one-hour soaps, which took the longest time to make the most banal plot points.

After the local soaps had learned their lesson, it was the turn of the sitcoms, most of which were generally too long to be consistently amusing. We now have 30-minute sitcoms that have more laughs per minute than the old 90-minute comic dinosaurs could ever hope to have—and that's a very welcome development, indeed.

Thirty-minute sitcoms are in fact the rule of thumb in the states, and they're much funnier than our remaining 90-minute behemoths. Let's hope that other shows and channels also opt for the 30-minute format this TV season. This will result in brisker programs and more viewing options that our viewers will definitely welcome. They've been bored by interminable slow programs for too long a time!

Frestyle at Arkdia

THE POPULAR Freestyle band will perform at Arkdia at 10:30 p.m. on Tuesday, March 19. The band is from Davao and is composed of **Jinky Vidal**, **Tops Suzara**, **Tat Suzara**, **Carlo Tapia**, **Nikki Cabardo** and **Gerald Banzon**. Call 400-9974.

Freestyle records for the Viva Neo label and has four platinum albums to its name. It has performed in big shows with some of the top pop soloists in the country.

One way to beat piracy

IT'S so frustrating for film producers to see pirated copies of their new movies for sale a couple of days after they open in theaters. How to beat the pirates at their own game? Viva Films recently tried a new tack by releasing its hit movie, "Ikaw Lamang Hanggang Ngayon," just three weeks after its theatrical debut.

As part of its strategy, to entice consumers to buy original videos, Viva Video has come up with a special pricing scheme—P150 for VCD, P175 for VHS, and P450 for DVD. The hope is that viewers will buy these legit copies instead of the cheap pirated versions.

New season

AT 11 p.m. today, March 17, the new "Star Trek" season starts on ABC-5. Day One for the untested crew on the USS Voyager begins unexpectedly with the disappearance of the Star Trek A starship after it's pursued by a Cardassianship in the Badlands, a charged energy field near the demilitarized zone.

To find the lost ship, the Voyager is dispatched to the Badlands. But as the ship enters the charged area, a strong mysterious presence rips it out of the Alpha Quadrant, causing damage and death.

The Voyager is led by a lady captain named Kathryn Janeway (**Kate Mulgrew**).

Movies on TV

ON HBO, Sunday, March 17 at 7:30 a.m., "Mother Night." 4:30 p.m., "Allan Quatermain and the Lost City of Gold." 8 p.m., "Erin Brokovich." 10:15 p.m., "Hollow Man." 5 a.m., "Dog Park."

Monday, March 18 at 8:15 a.m., "Dead in the Water." 10 a.m., "Neikl Simon's Brighton Beach Memoirs." 2 a.m., "The Godfather III."

Tuesday, March 19 at 5:30 a.m., "Girl, Interrupted." 9 p.m., "Ghost."

On the Cinemax channel, Sunday, March 17 at 6 a.m., "Tea for Two." 10:45 a.m., "Snow Falling on Cedars." 9 p.m., "Picking Up the Pieces."

Monday, March 18 at 9:45 a.m., "Deep Blue Sea." 1:25 a.m., "Sabrina."

Tuesday, March 19, 6:30 a.m., "The Big Heist." 9:45 a.m., "Riders of the Purple Sage." 4 p.m., "The Ten Commandments." 10:30 p.m., "What Planet Are You From?"

Johnny Misa, 66

ACTOR, architect and visual artist **Juan "Johnny" Daniel Misa**, 66, died recently on the feast of St. John Bosco in Sydney, Australia. As a movie actor, he appeared in Sampaguita Pictures productions like "Holiday in Bali," "Birds of Paradise," "Ang Senyorito at ang Atsay" and "Bathing Beauties" with **Amalia Fuentes**, **Juancho Gutierrez**, **Eddie Garcia** and **Luis Gonzales**, among others.

As an architect, he planned and managed the construction of sports complexes, beach resorts, mass housing, and commercial and industrial estates in the Philippines Singapore, Saudi Arabia US Pacific Terroties, Indonesia and Australia. He was a member of the Camden Society of Artists in Sydney and his paintings were exhibited in their gallery.

Comedy of quiz-show errors

QUIZMASTER: *Ano ang tawag sa dumi sa balat?*
Contestant: *Ketong!*
(*Sobra ka naman. Ang tamang sagot ay libag lang.*)

* * *

Quizmaster: Complete this saying: *Naroon na banig, lumipat pa sa —?*
Contestant: *Kama!*
(No, *sahig.*)

* * *

Quizmaster: *Ang* longhorn *ay* cow or horse?
Contestant: Horse!
(A horse with horns? No, cow.)

* * *

Quizmaster: What is the third month of the year?
Contestant: June!
(No, March.)

* * *

Quizmaster: Complete this children's rhyme: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, I caught a — alive.
Contestant: Rabbit!
(I caught a rabbit alive?—That sounds weird! No, fish.)

* * *

Quizmaster: Who was the host of the TV show "Public Forum"?
Contestant: Joe Quirino!
(No, Randy David.)

* * *

Quizmaster: What is the term used for photographers who follow celebrities around and take scandalous photos of them?
Contestant: Scandalous photographers!
(No, paparazzi!)

* * *

Quizmaster: Complete this saying: Love your neighbor as you love —?
Contestant: Your wife!
(Love your neighbor as you love your wife?—That's really weird! No, the correct answer is: yourself.)

* * *

Quizmaster: What is the singular of ourselves?
Contestant: Ourself!
(No, myself!)

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G1 Great Price (GLORIETTA 1): 1 QUEEN OF THE DAMNED; 2 WE WERE SOLDIERS; 3 D-TOX; 4 GOT 2 BELIEVE
G4 (GLORIETTA 4): 1 THE ROYAL TENENBAUMS; 2 WE WERE SOLDIERS; 3 QUEEN OF THE DAMNED (THX) GUARANTEED SEATS; 4 THE SHIPPING NEWS; 5 D-TOX; 6 A BEAUTIFUL MIND; 7 NOT ANOTHER TEEN MOVIE
GB1 Art Film (GREENBELT 1): 1 THE SHIPPING NEWS; 2 QUEEN OF THE DAMNED; 3 THE ROYAL TENENBAUMS; 4 Onstage ILLUSIONE MARCH 14, 15, 16
ATC (ALABANG TOWN CENTER): 1 QUEEN OF THE DAMNED (THX); 2 THE ROYAL TENENBAUMS; 3 A BEAUTIFUL MIND; 4 THE SHIPPING NEWS; 5 WE WERE SOLDIERS

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ALABANG
March 15, 16 &17 - 11:00am, 3:30pm, & 6:30pm
At the Activity Center.
For inquiries, call 847-2782.

10-to-10 Mallwide Sale - March 15, 16 & 17

CEBU
March 8 - 5:30pm, 6:30pm, & 7:30pm
March 9 - 3:30pm, 5:30pm, & 6:30pm
March 10 - 11am, 4pm, & 6pm
At the Activity Center.
For inquiries, call 213-5342 loc. 0.

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Per DTI-NCR Permit # AH-0045 & 0048 series of 2002

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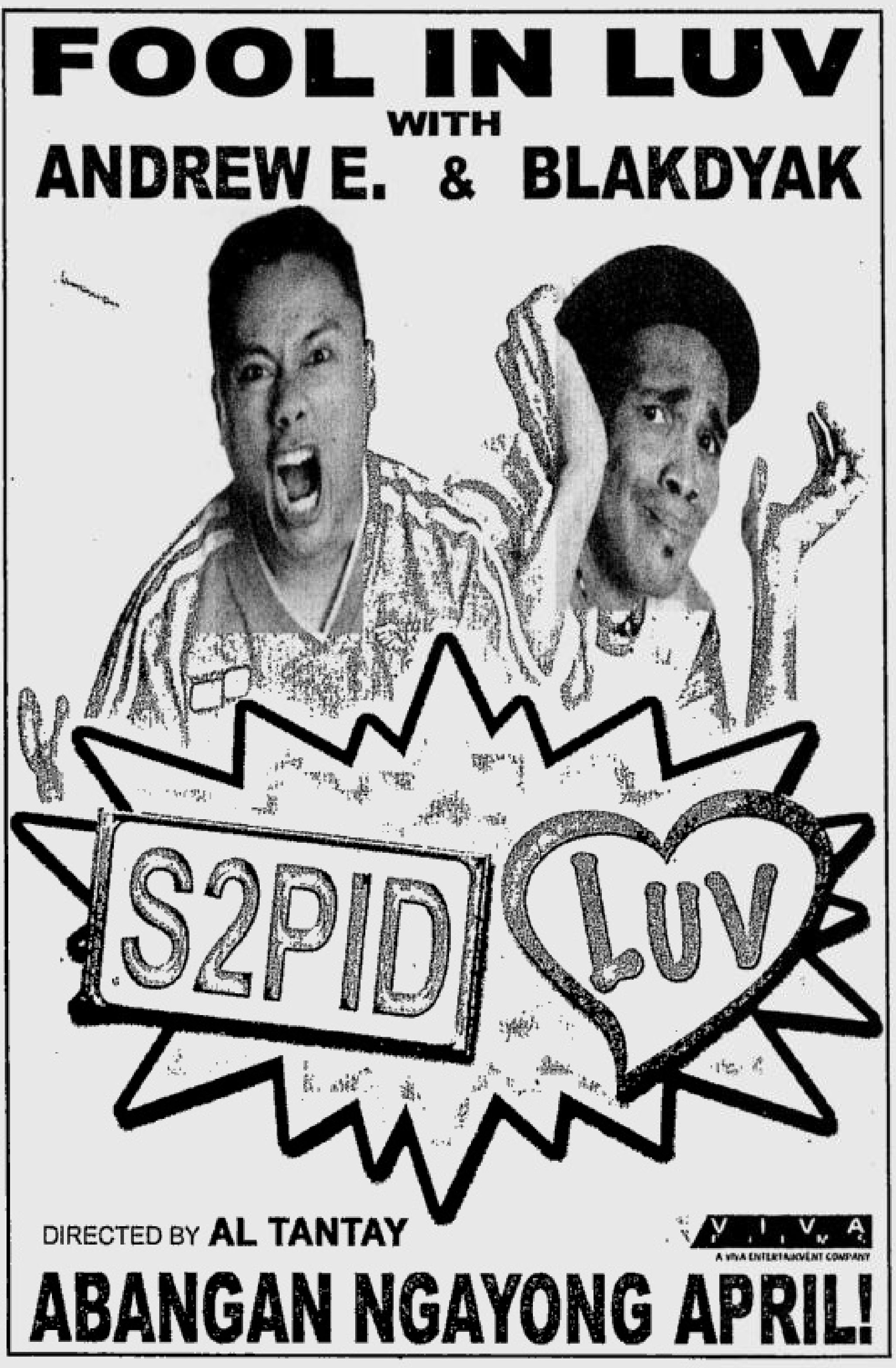

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CINEMA 1: WE WERE SOLDIERS 12:30, 3:15, 6:00, 8:45 P 13
CINEMA 2: A BEAUTIFUL MIND 11:00, 1:45, 4:30, 7:15, 10:00 P 13

Matinee: P80.00 - Screenings before 5:00pm, Monday thru Friday (Free Seating).
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D-TOX - R 18 1:00, 3:00, 5:00, 7:00, 9:00	ROYAL TENENBAUMS - P 13 12:00, 2:20, 4:40, 7:00, 9:30	WE WERE SOLDIERS - P 13 1:00, 4:00, 6:55, 9:50
QUEEN OF THE DAMNED - P 13 10:40, 12:50, 3:05, 5:20, 7:35, 9:50	SHIPPING NEWS - P 13 12:30, 2:55, 5:20, 7:45, 10:10	A BEAUTIFUL MIND - P13 11:20, 2:00, 4:40, 7:20, 10:00

Matinee, P80, Mon.-Fri., 11:00 am to 4:45 pm Screenings, Free Seating.

OPENS MARCH 20 !

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MARSHA YUEH
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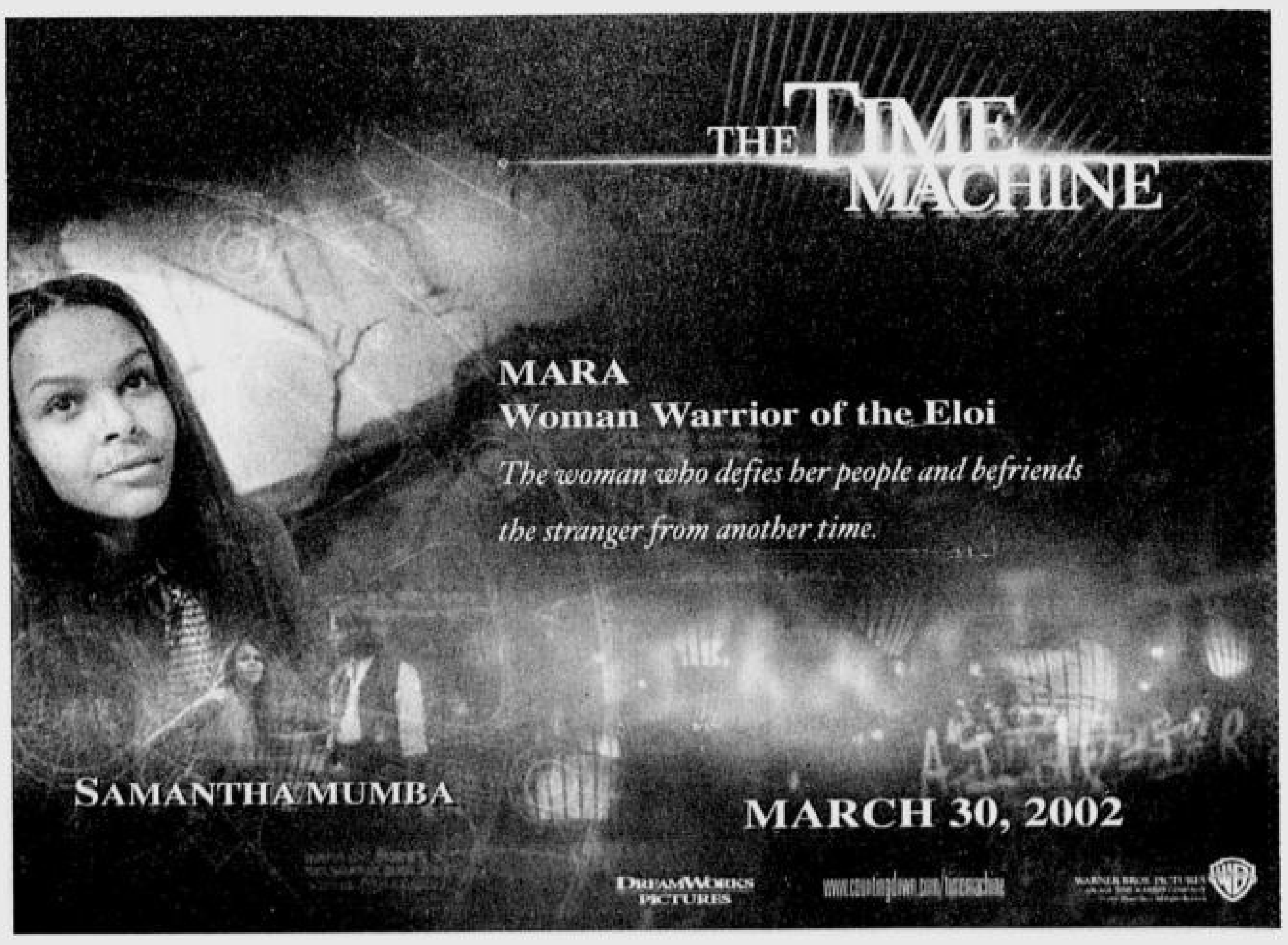

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STAR-STUDDED opening of Live Station with (from left) Sen. Tito Sotto, megastar Sharon Cuneta, action king Fernando Poe Jr., comedian Vic Sotto and owner Bert de Leon.

Six entries picked for return of Manila filmfest in June

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Leah Salterio

SHARON Cuneta and **Rudy Fernandez** are just two of the big stars whose starrers will be in the coming Manila Film Festival in June.

Six official entries were chosen last Friday, after two weeks of deliberations by the screening committee.

Rudy and **Ara Mina** topbill the action-drama "Diskarte" from Maverick Films.

Sharon stars for the first time with young actress **Judy Ann Santos** in "Magkapatid," from Viva Films. As the title implies, Sharon and Judy Ann play sisters. Sharon is the successful one who has to fend for Judy Ann, only to get mad at her when the younger one decides to marry at an early age.

The story is reminiscent of Sharon's earlier teamup with **Lorna Tolentino**, "Nakagapos na Puso."

Joyce Jimenez and **Piolo Pascual** are paired for the first time in "Sweethearts," from Regal Films.

The other entries are "Jologs" from Star Cinema, "Super B Saves the Day" from Neo Films and "Yes, Babe . . . Dat's My Daddy" from RVQ.

The screening committee that reviewed the scripts is chaired by **Lito Banayo**. Its members are acting Manila City administrator **Ma. Lourdes Isip**, Councilors **Kim Atienza, Miles Roces, Lou Veloso** and **Marjun Isidro**, Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila president **Benjamin Tayabas, Raul Camaligan** of SM Cinemas, **Philippson Chua** of Gotesco and talent manager **June Rufino**.

Banayo said the screening committee considered the script, support by the production outfit, the director, casting and commercial viability of the film.

The six entries will be shown in Manila theaters from June 12 to 25, and from June 12 to 19 in other theaters in Metro Manila.

Successful opening

CONGRATULATIONS to director **Bert de Leon** for the successful and star-studded opening of Live Station, his newest night haunt at the Prince Entertainment Center along West Ave. corner Del Monte Ave. in Quezon City.

Action king **Fernando Poe Jr.**, megastar Sharon Cuneta, Sen. **Tito Sotto** and comedian/TV host **Vic Sotto** led the list of special guests.

The place is a comedy and sing-along bar featuring live performers and stand-up comedians. It has a spacious floor area which can accommodate up to 500 people.

Direk Bert, who also owns Suburbia in Malate, says Live Station will feature special concept shows at least once a month.

"A five-star comedy bar is what we'd like to call it, a nice and cool place to unwind and laugh to your heart's content," he explains.

Direk Bert is one of the founding partners of Live Station and also its vice president for entertainment.

Live Station features resident sing-along masters and other artists. Scheduled in the coming weeks are special shows with **Jon Santos, Candy Pangilinan, Janno Gibbs, Ai-Ai de las Alas** (April 3) and **Rosanna Roces** (April 17).

Despite the mushrooming of similar joints in the area, *Direk* Bert believes there is still room for another entertainment venue like Live Station.

"I believe it's the 'in' thing today from Caloocan to Alabang," Bert says. "People from all walks of life need a good laugh to ease the problems and tension brought about by the economic crunch."

His new place offers a well-stocked bar and grilled specialties like steak and fish, and *pica-pica* like *sisig, gambas* and *calamares*.

Host and director

ERIC Quizon wears two hats in the lifestyle and cooking show, "Better Home Ideas (Your Home Buddy)," which airs Saturdays, 11:30 a.m. to 12 noon on RPN 9.

Eric hosts and also directs the show, which allows him to be an all-around homebody, sharing recipes and practical household and health tips as well as easy-to-implement business ideas.

"I really wanted to do a lifestyle show with a cooking segment," Eric shares. "I know 'Better Home Ideas' will be a successful show."

He is also excited about another TV program, a travelogue, which he is conceptualizing with his younger brother **Jeffrey**.

"It will have a format never seen before on local TV," Eric beams. "After this, local travel shows will never be the same again."

QUIZON. Exploring Cebu for TV special.

Every month, the tandem will travel to a new local destination. Initially, the brothers will explore Cebu with beauty queen **Georgina Sandico** in a two-hour TV special, "The Magical Cebu," to be aired on RPN 9 later this month.

The special was done in a wacky, yet informative manner and vividly captures the vibrant colors and sounds of Cebu, its scenic spots, culture, people, food and the Sinulog celebration.

"We expect the viewers not just to laugh and be entertained but also to fall in love with the place," says Eric.

A philosophical, sentimental thesis

From page A29

available to filmmakers such as himself.

Howard says he couldn't have tried to explain Nash's formulas, which established the principles of the Game Theory of Economics (something to do with strategic conflict and negotiation) without tripping all over himself, mathematics being far from his strong suit.

"There's an algebra teacher somewhere who's going to laugh very hard when she sees this movie," he has told an interviewer. "But I also couldn't tell you how to get to the moon (referring to another movie of his, 'Apollo 13')."

The man Nash is the main thing. His incomparable life was meant to touch others. Howard points out that the work for which Nash was awarded the Nobel has affected the whole civilized world, but on the other hand, so has the man's celebrated paranoid schizophrenia.

"People don't talk about it," the director says, "but almost every family (in America) has been touched by the powerfully insidious and tragic disorder."

Lessons learned

I'd say Howard weighed his options well. Although he is able to make the mathematical pursuits almost colorful, it is as a philosophical and sentimental thesis that "A Beautiful Mind" scores with me.

I am in good company. Time Magazine predicts a one-way slide of Oscars for this movie (including one for Ed Harris in an imaginary role?) "interrupted by a heartfelt acceptance speech from Sissy Spacek (performing in another movie, 'In the Bedroom')."

What are some of the lessons that I have learned from "A Beautiful Mind?"

It is not always fun to see things that others can't.

Mental illness is like tuberculosis. I can have it and not know until I need to be put away.

If someone asks me to do something way out of the ordinary, I should take his picture and ask for a huge down payment, medical insurance, or pension plan.

It is possible to step out of undesirable aspects of my personality, find my positive core, and stay in its safety until the demons say goodbye, or are at least tamed.

Next time someone bugs me, I can assign him to a dimension of non-reality. It will be chic, especially if/when the movie wins the Oscars.

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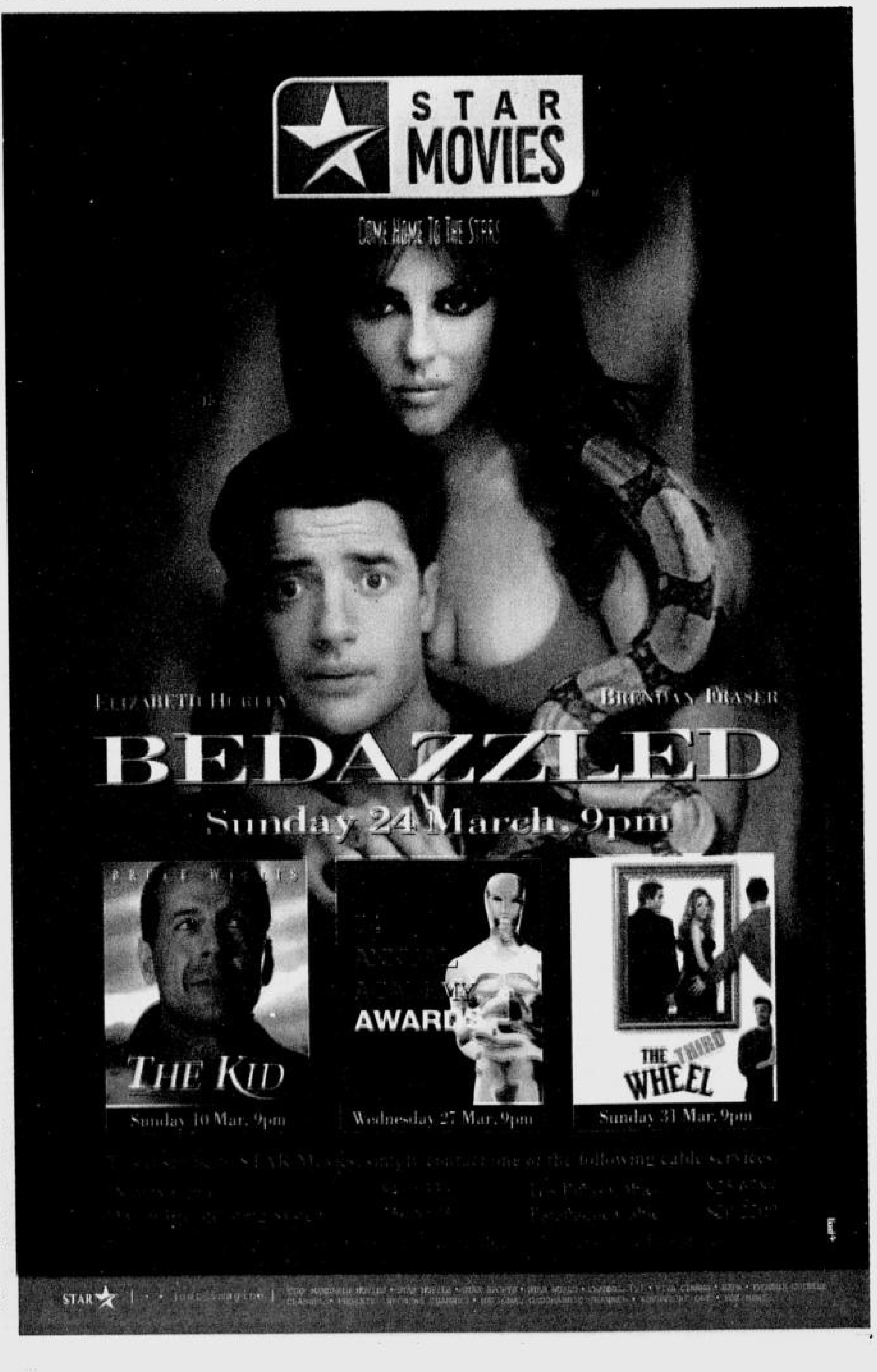


Australian puppeteer brings high-energy act to Manila

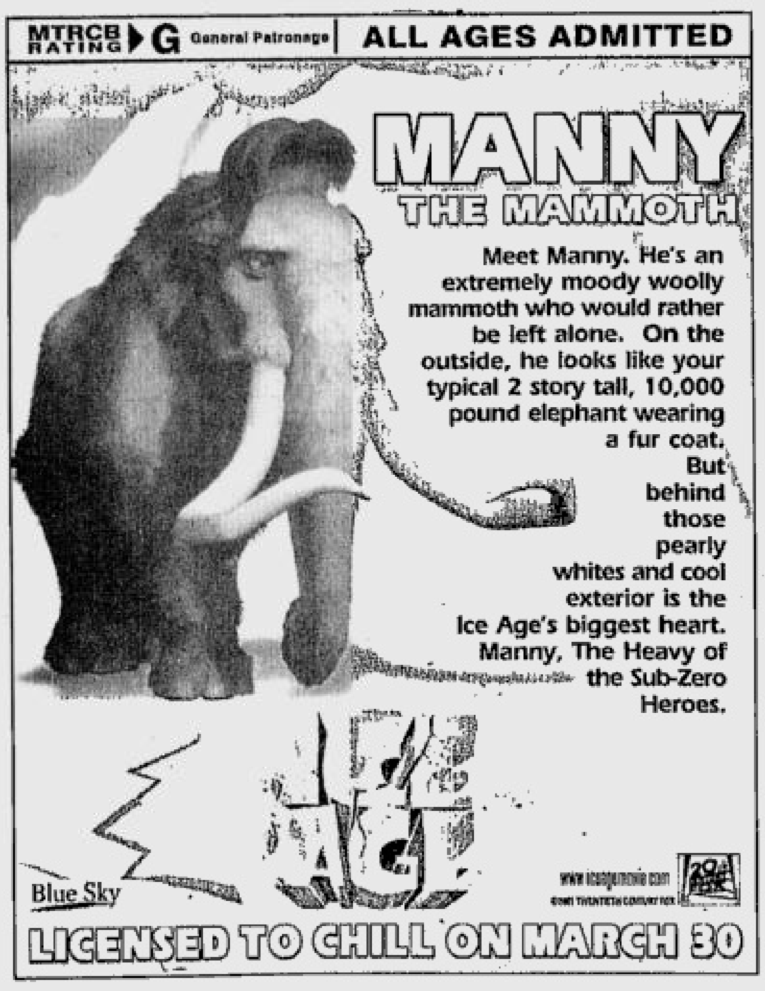
AUSTRALIA'S renowned puppeteer, Murray Raine and his star-studded group of marionettes and life-size puppets will do a special show at the activity center of Alabang Town Center (ATC) today.

Mall goers will be captivated as the Murray Raine Puppet show presents a non-stop, music-based and high-energy Cabaret style puppet production.

Kids and adults alike will be captivated with the cast of dazzling puppet characters such as acrobatic clowns, koalas on trapeze, and hilarious caricatures of Pavarotti and Elvis Presley.

Shows are scheduled at 11 a.m., 3:30 and 6:30 p.m.

Alabang Town Center, the premier shopping and entertainment mall south of Manila, has been the venue of many entertainment events such as concerts, mall tours and movie launches.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MANNY
THE MAMMOTH

Meet Manny. He's an extremely moody woolly mammoth who would rather be left alone. On the outside, he looks like your typical 2 story tall, 10,000 pound elephant wearing a fur coat. But behind those pearly whites and cool exterior is the Ice Age's biggest heart. Manny, The Heavy of the Sub-Zero Heroes.

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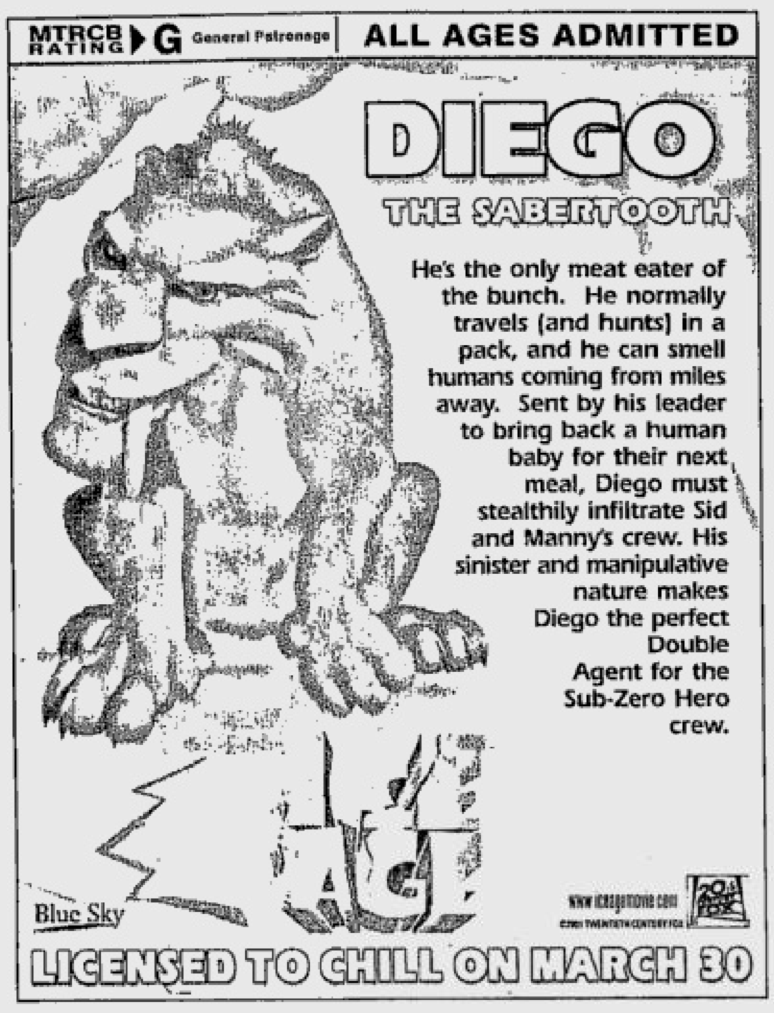
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DIEGO
THE SABERTOOTH

He's the only meat eater of the bunch. He normally travels (and hunts) in a pack, and he can smell humans coming from miles away. Sent by his leader to bring back a human baby for their next meal, Diego must stealthily infiltrate Sid and Manny's crew. His sinister and manipulative nature makes Diego the perfect Double Agent for the Sub-Zero Hero crew.

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SCRAT
THE SQUIRREL

The Scrat is a mammal on a mission, just trying to hide his acorn. A little light on the smarts though, if the Scrat is going to survive the Ice Age, he'd better stick close to Manny, watch his back for a lurking Diego and always keep his two hands on his nut. The Scrat is The Sub-Zero Heroes' Squeak Attack.

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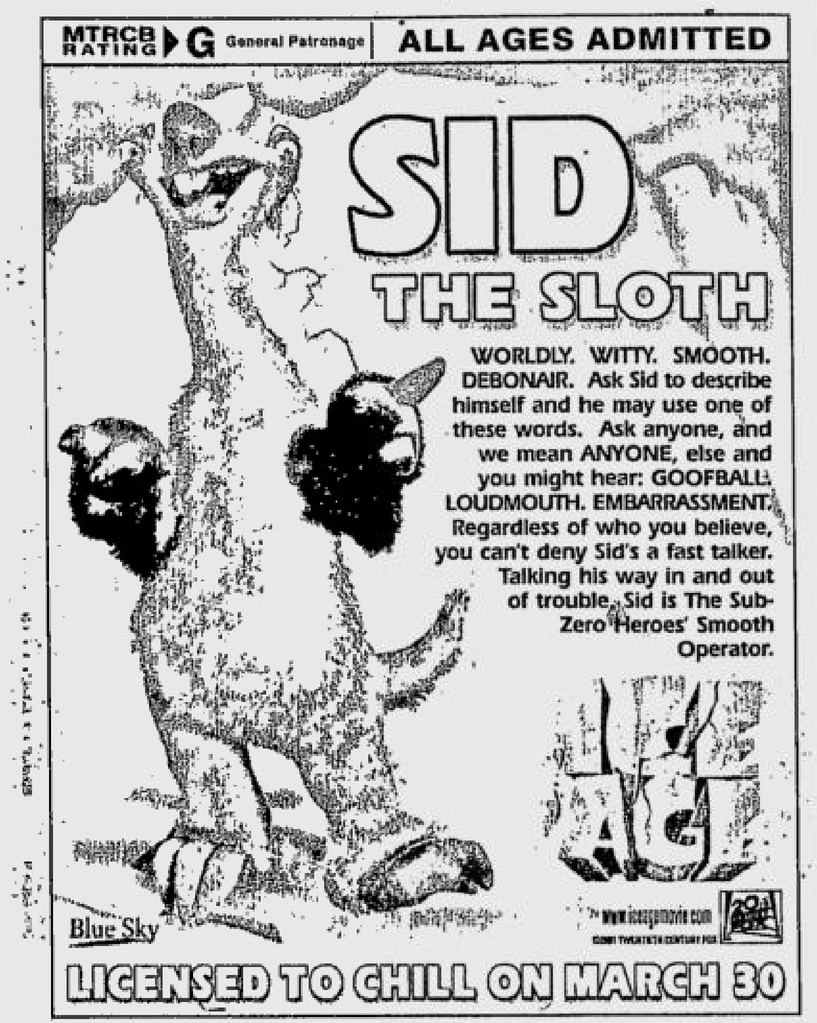
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SID
THE SLOTH

WORLDLY. WITTY. SMOOTH. DEBONAIR. Ask Sid to describe himself and he may use one of these words. Ask anyone, and we mean ANYONE, else and you might hear: GOOFBALL. LOUDMOUTH. EMBARRASSMENT. Regardless of who you believe, you can't deny Sid's a fast talker. Talking his way in and out of trouble, Sid is The Sub-Zero Heroes' Smooth Operator.

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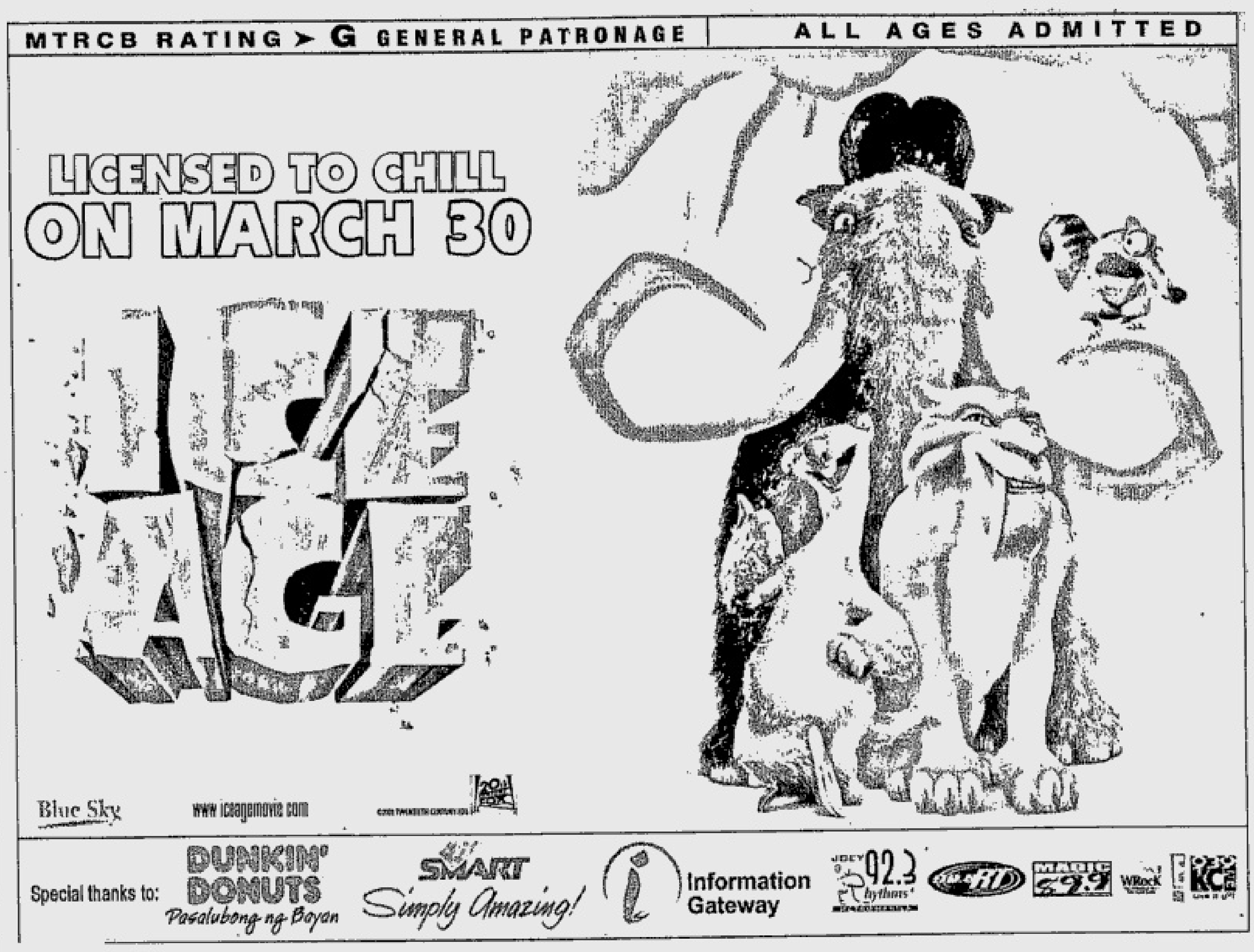
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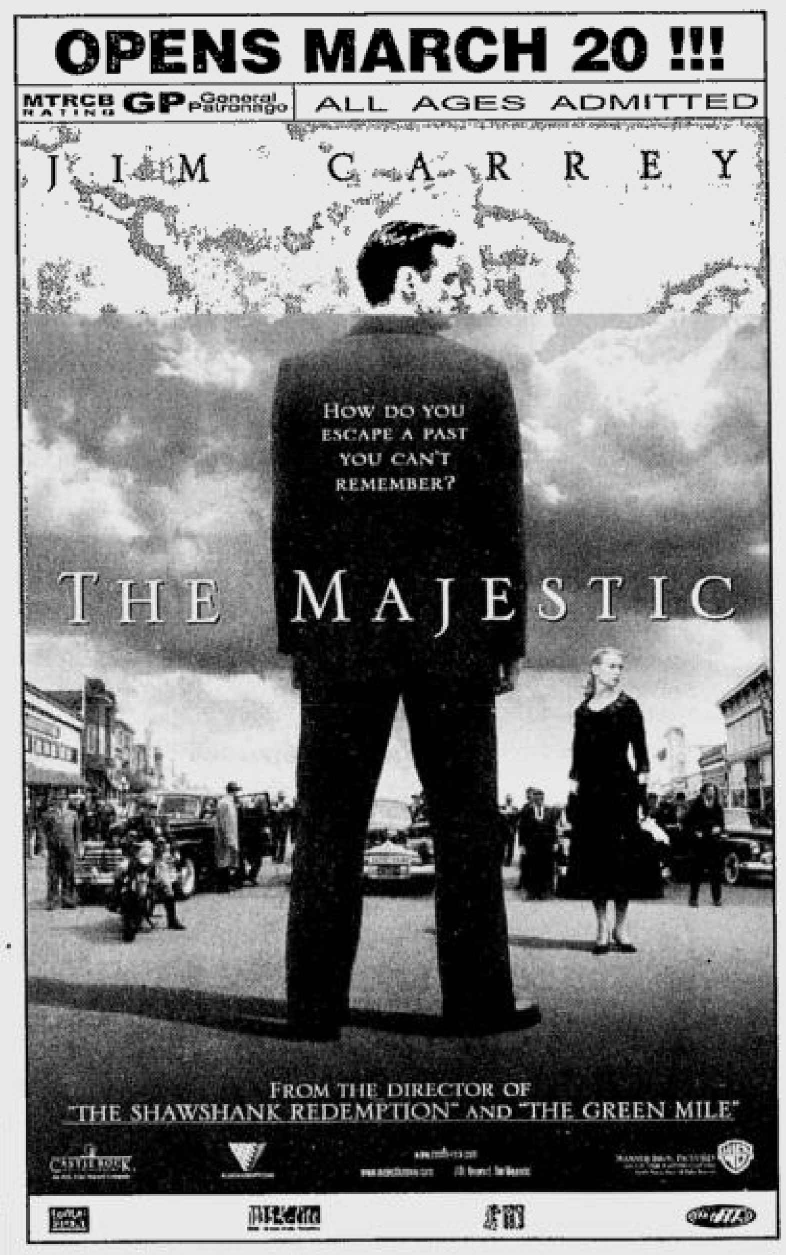
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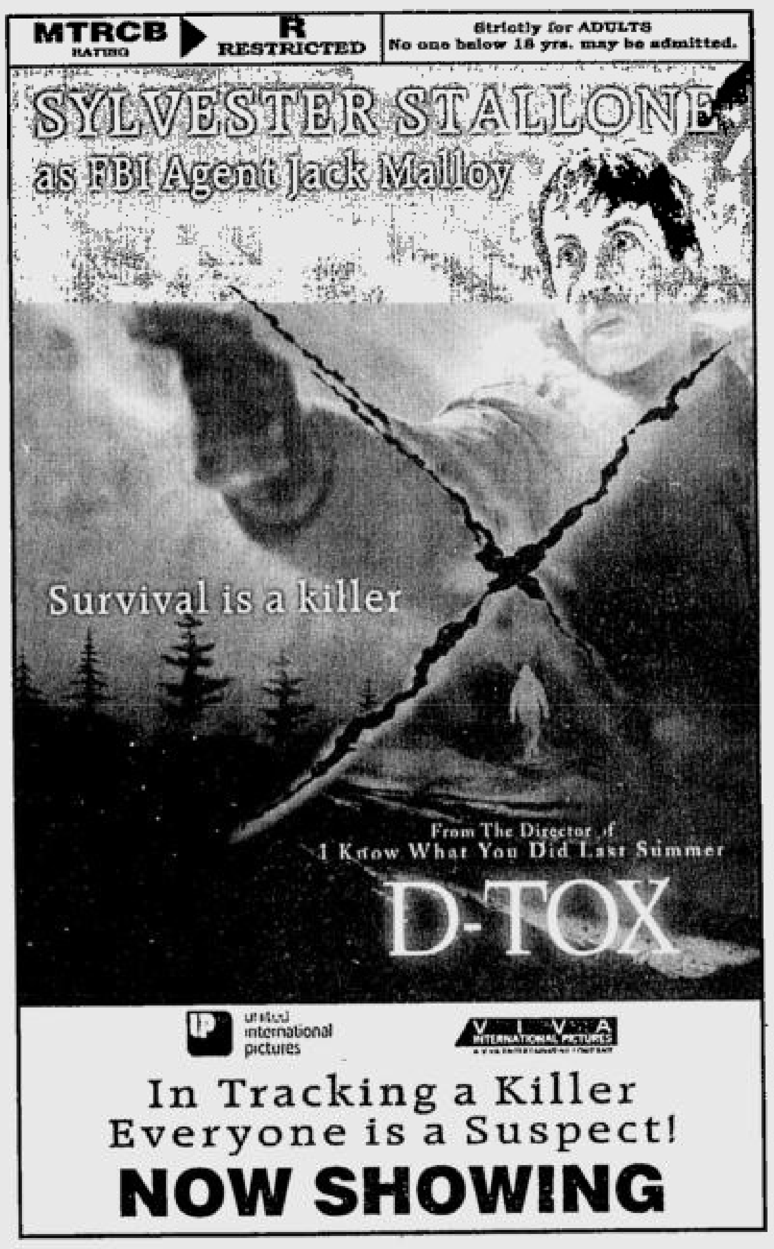
JIM CARREY

HOW DO YOU ESCAPE A PAST YOU CAN'T REMEMBER?

THE MAJESTIC

FROM THE DIRECTOR OF "THE SHAWSHANK REDEMPTION" AND "THE GREEN MILE"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ENTERTAINMENT

Editor **Louie C. Camino**

'A BEAUTIFUL MIND'

A philosophical, sentimental thesis

By Emmie G. Velarde

REVIEW

"YOU are exceptionally odd," has to be the most spontaneous and most moving avowal of attraction that I have heard in years from a movie. Coming from a famously split personality, its potency is stepped up, three times in this case, to express three other selves.

Like so: When Russell Crowe as John Forbes Nash Jr. says it to his date in "A Beautiful Mind," the infatuated girl is spun clear out of her head. She feels completely tuned in to him, and able to see things that he sees, including constellations in the shape of umbrellas and octopi. She is in for a very rude awakening.

Soon after the wedding, it becomes clear that it would take more than a hug and a cocktail to help the eccentric husband unwind after work. A math prof in graduate school, he works part-time as code-breaker for the Department of Defense and, lately, for a more covert government agency. Meaning, unknown to the bewildered wife, a day at the office usually includes lapses into dementia and schizophrenic episodes. I am told there is a difference between these two compelling states.

"A Beautiful Mind" is not a biopic, the filmmakers point out, although it was inspired by a 1998 biography of math genius and Nobel Prize winner John Forbes Nash Jr. What it tries to do, they say, is "honor the spirit of a life and get to some truth by way of imagination, not by way of facts."

Descent into madness

Indeed the facts, although extraordinary, may be less than cinematic. A genius in search of an original idea/mathematical formula turns off everybody in the university with his peculiarities and social awkwardness. A few years later, he finds himself helplessly intrigued by another configuration of forms, the kind that is capable of repartee and other manners of equation, and has long hair, luscious lips and the bushiest brows.

They get married. At about this time, probably coincidentally, he descends into madness. He is institutionalized, but eventually heals only with the love of his faithful wife, the support of colleagues, and his own resolve to crawl out of the downward spiral.

The movie is a trifle too long, and is held fast almost solely by the riveting individual performances. Russell Crowe was born to play the swashbuckling "Gladiator," right? He was also born to play "The (withering) Insider," the sure-footed negotiator in "Proof of Life," and the haunted detective in "L.A. Confidential." The man is either brilliant or schizophrenic himself, in which case, he was born to play Nash.

Ed Harris is mesmerizing as a spectre, an aspect of Nash's personality that is virtually given flesh and blood, plus a name and an office. Just as polished is Christopher Plummer as the shrink (who is made to look more like a spectre than Harris) that consigns the illusions to their proper place, and Jennifer Connely as the devoted wife, the most confounding figure of all for the beleaguered genius.

But the role of Nash is such, that all the other roles put together don't measure up.

Original lines

Director Ron Howard (the same man who did "Splash") and screenwriter Akiva Goldsman do their share with equal success in the "truth by way of imagination" department.

In their affectionate hands, Nash the Princeton University icon is portrayed as an intriguing young man whose coarse outspokenness about the rituals of courtship merely elicits graphic reactions (unabashed interest or comic discomfort) from the ladies. He ponders his beloved equations best by sketching them on windows, like fragile glass art. He is made to utter some very original lines as a clumsy Romeo, calculated to win not only his leading lady, but all the women in the theater as well.

For instance, something like: "We are required to engage in some platonic activity before we have sex." In short, Nash is made irresistible, humorous, almost cuddly, even in parts where he is unmistakably boorish.

Introduced to a colleague and fellow scholar who beats him to a glass of punch, he snaps, "I have read both your papers. There isn't a single seminal idea in either of them." And one scene peeks into his debilitating competitiveness.

Losing at a board game called Go, he thunders, "I had the first move. My play was perfect. This game is flawed!" Far from ominous dread, however, this outburst feeds more chuckles from the audience.

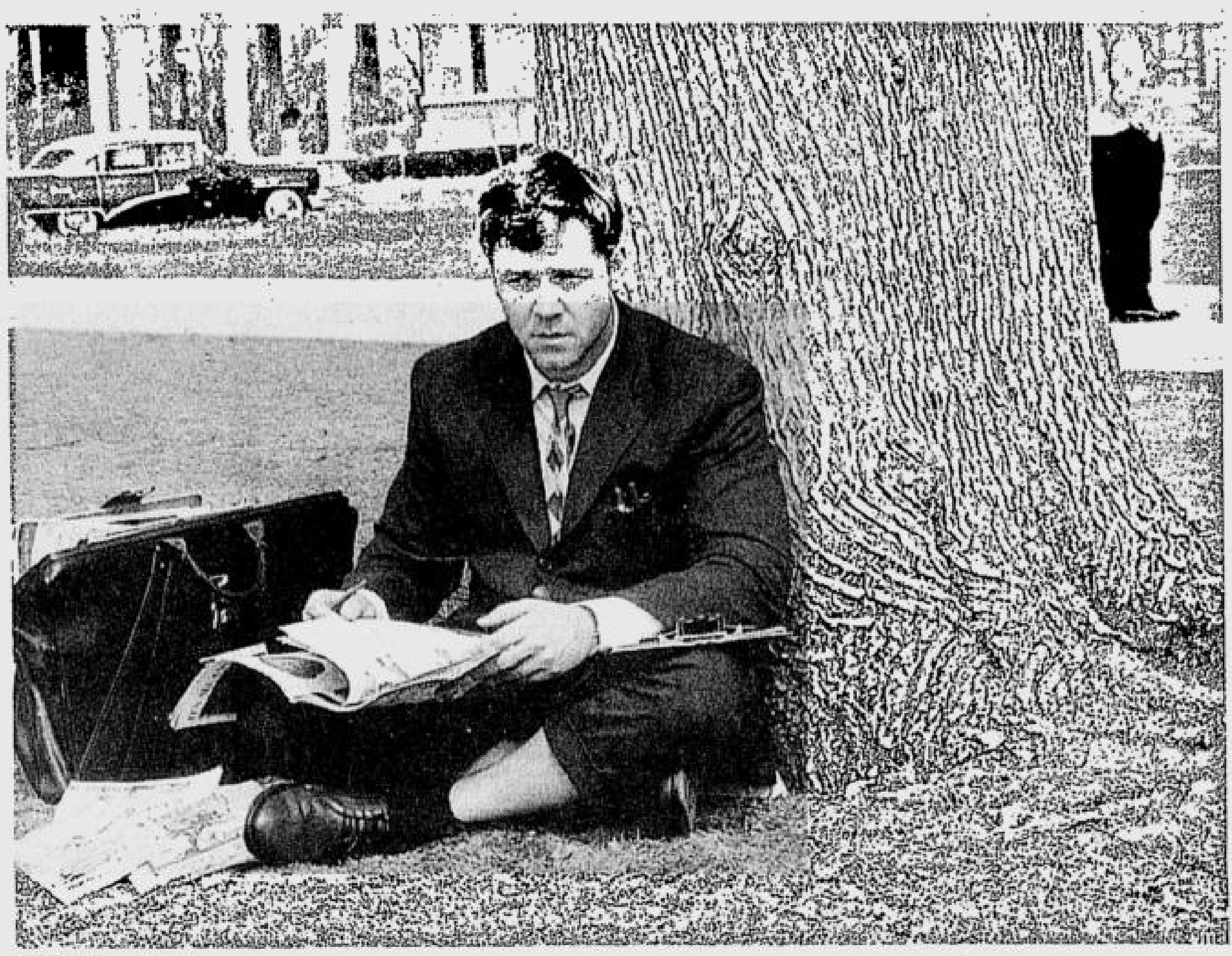
The same "truth by way of imagination department" conveniently glosses over the young Nash's record of arrest for indecent exposure, and his having fathered a child out of wedlock. These would have taken the story at hand on a complicated detour.

Film's focus

Finally, moviegoers are expertly, unthreateningly walked through the period of John Forbes Nash Jr.'s life that is the main focus of the film. When the moonlighting math prof starts to straddle parallel realities, we plunge with him willingly into both.

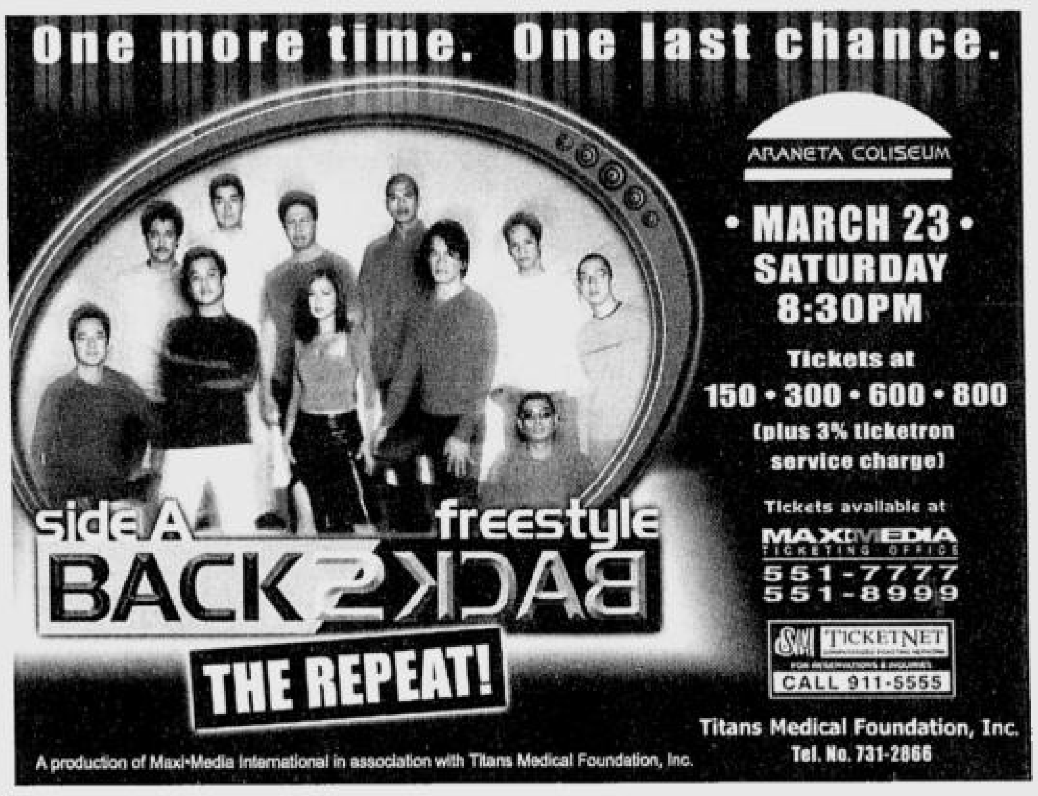
This is, of course, Ron Howard's declared intention—to depict what a marriage might be like under such circumstances. So that he doesn't even attempt distancing the two otherwise conflicting narratives by any device

A PHILOSOPHICAL/ A29



CROWE as Nash

What the film tries to do is 'honor the spirit of a life and get to some truth'



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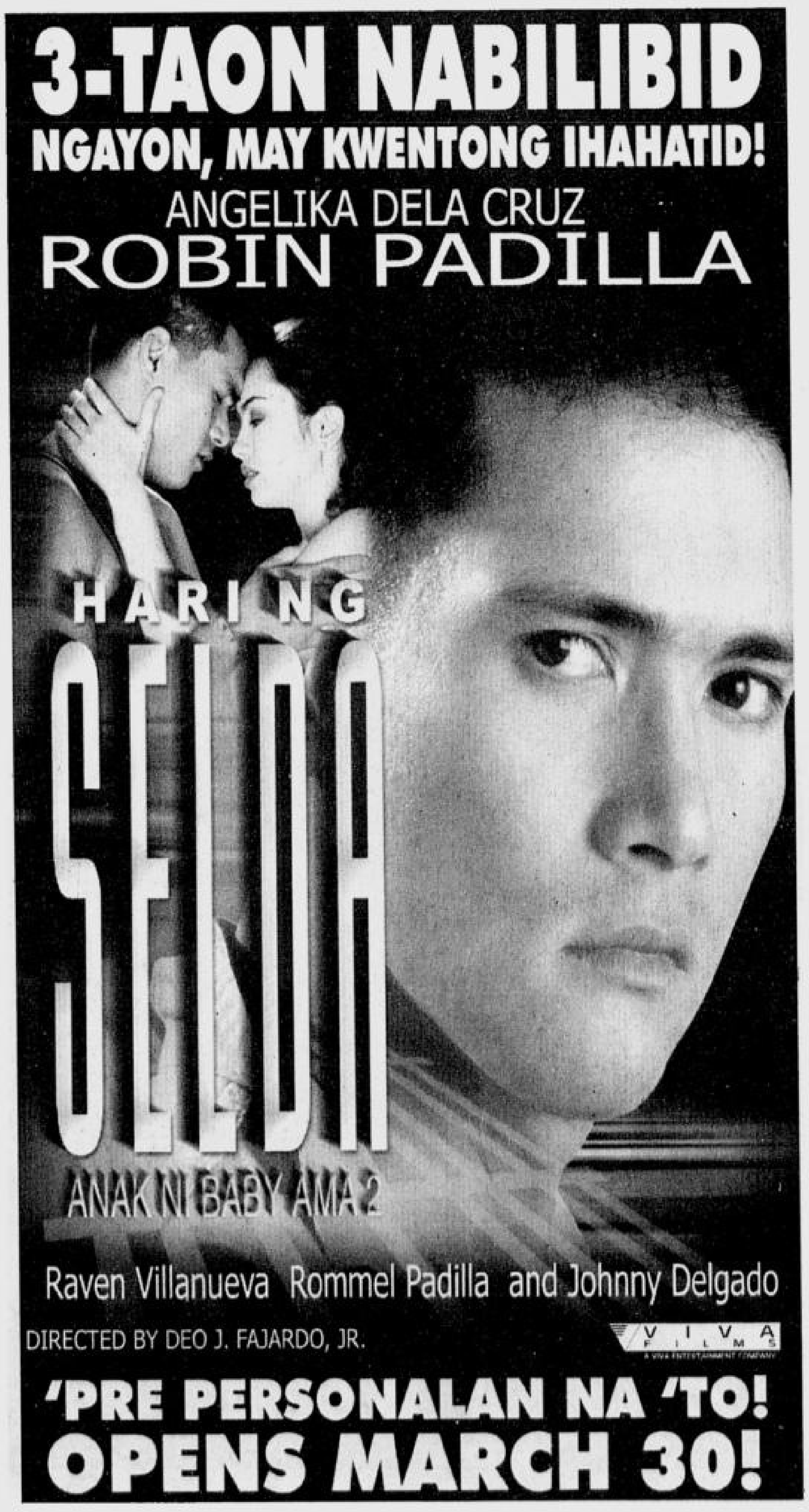

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HARING NG
SELDA
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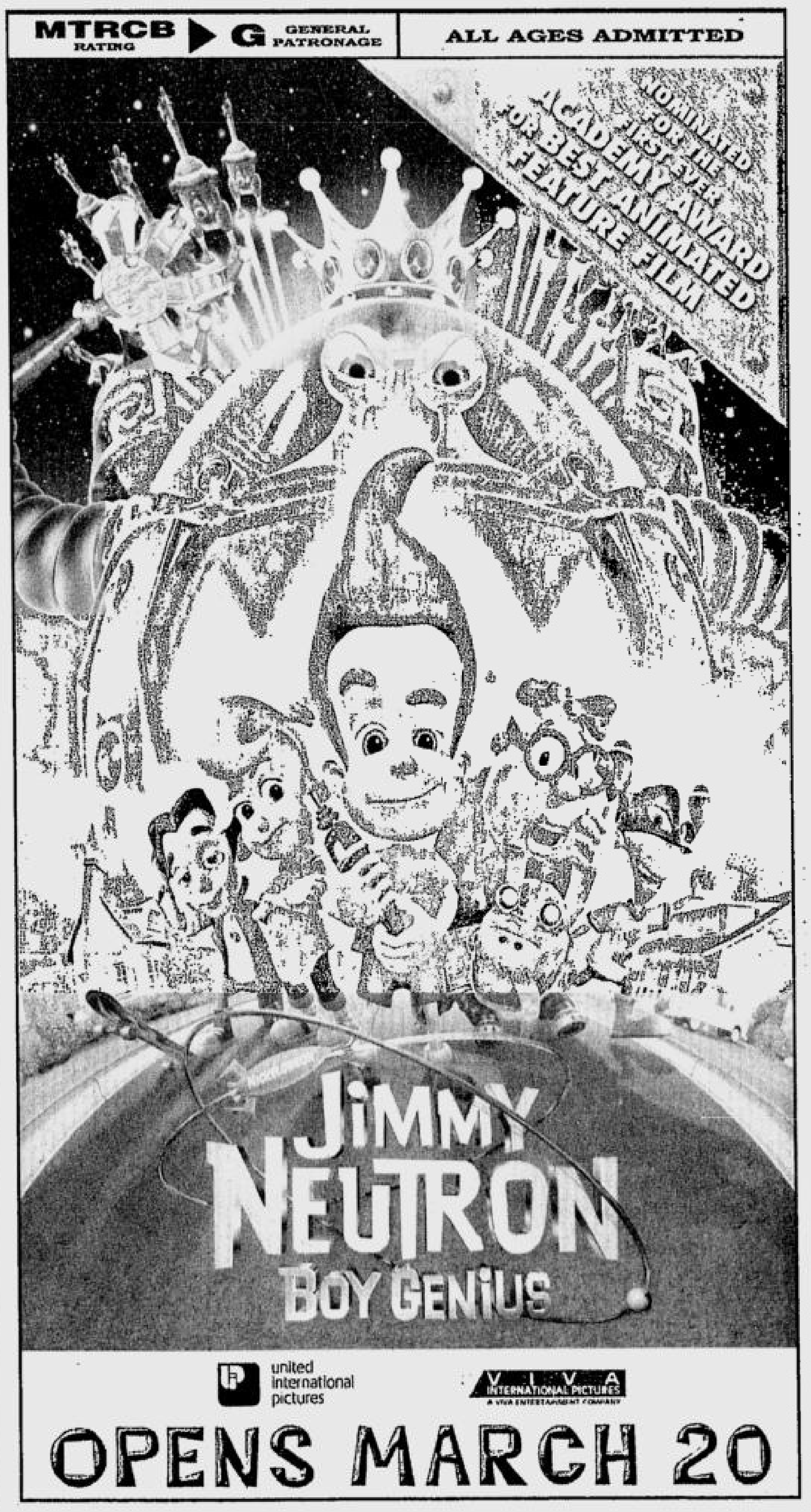

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SundayBiz
Editor Raul O. Marcelo ■ Business Features Editor Margie Quimpo-Espino

At past 60, son moves to fulfill father's vision

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

ONE of the earliest memories of Jorge L. Araneta, chair man and president of the Araneta group, was of him holding one of the many fighting cocks of his father, Don Amado Araneta.

Araneta tells SundayBiz that he helped feed, exercise and take care of the many fighting cocks loved by his father for as long as he could remember.

And he, like his father, and his father before him, came to love the sport that he described as among the most noble.

"I used to tag along with him whenever he had a competition. I followed him around and perhaps by osmosis I learned to love it too," Araneta says in an interview in his Cubao office.

Cockfighting may seem brutal to many people, especially the animal rights activists but Araneta says that he would rather watch cocks fight than to see two humans slugging it out in a boxing ring.

He stresses that cockfighting is actually a noble sport, so noble in fact that many of the beloved figures in American history such as Thomas Jefferson and Abraham Lincoln were serious followers of the sport.

"Tell me any other animal that would fight to the death for you. When a tiger gets hurt, it will run away and cry. The same with other animals except the fighting cock. It is the only animal I know that would continue to fight down to its last gasp," Araneta explains.

JORGE Leon Araneta, chair of the Araneta group: noble, democratic sport.

There are also stories about generals in ancient Greece who used to show cocks fighting to the soldiers before they go to battle.

"The general told the soldiers that if they could only fight like the cocks, which means fighting to the death, then they would surely win the war," Araneta adds.

Loyalty and determination were just among the many lessons that he learned from cockfighting, and from his father who built what is the Araneta group today.

His father had the cunning and the boldness to shift gears from running a sugar plantation in Bago City, Negros Occidental to venturing into real estate, eventually developing some 35 hectares of property in Cubao, Quezon City into today's Araneta center.

It was Don Amado who built the Araneta Coliseum in the 1960s, inspired by a trip to Rome where he saw the Roman coliseum.

"He said when he came back that he wanted to build one just like it in the Philippines and he did. He was the principal architect of that coliseum which was the biggest in Asia during its time," he says.

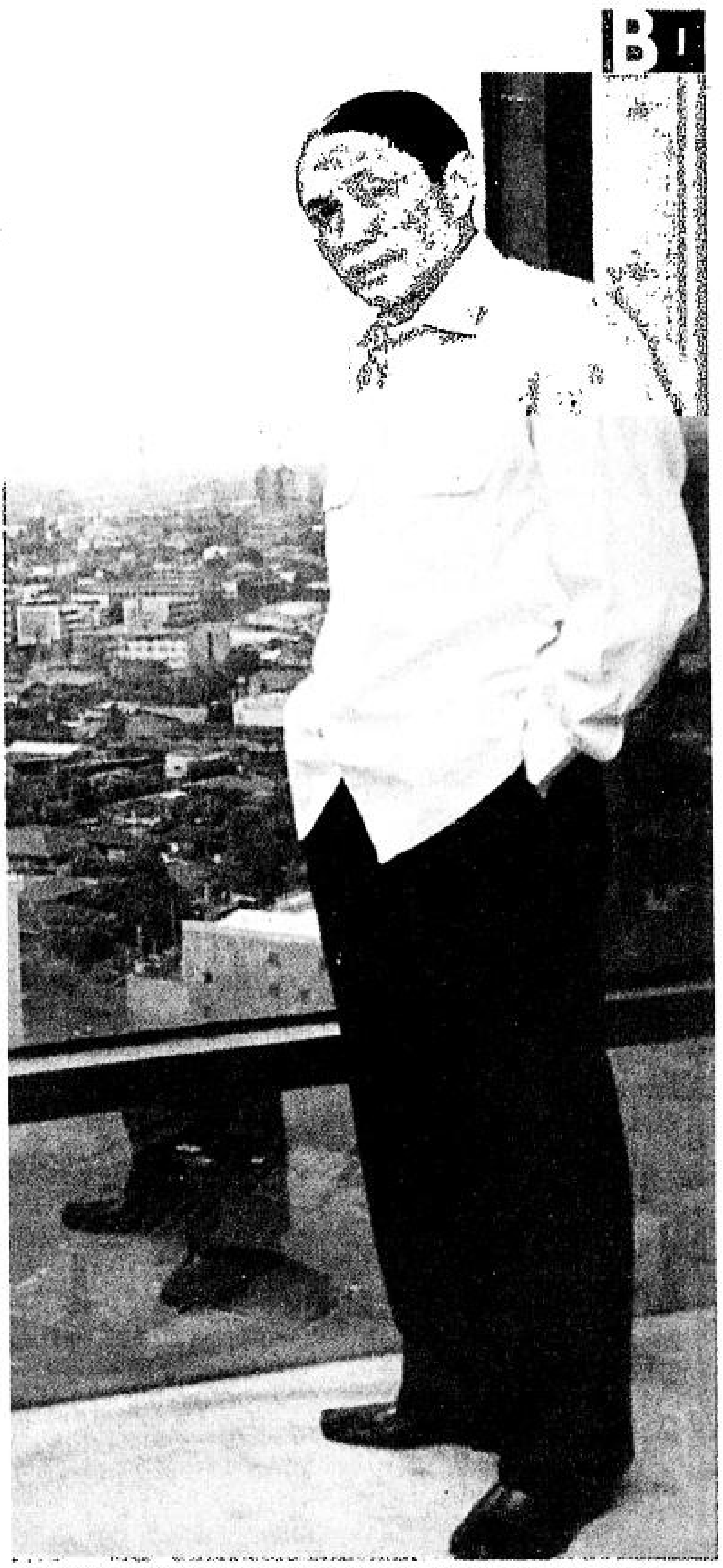
He says the Araneta Coliseum never actually made money in the 40 years that it has been in operation, but then it has always been his father's policy to provide the best entertainment and retail facilities to the greater number of people, not just for the rich. And business is not just about profit but service.

And the son is committed to fulfilling the same vision through the ambitious Metro Centro development project, which calls for the redevelopment of over 900 ha of the Quezon City district with the 35-ha Araneta center as the future central business district.

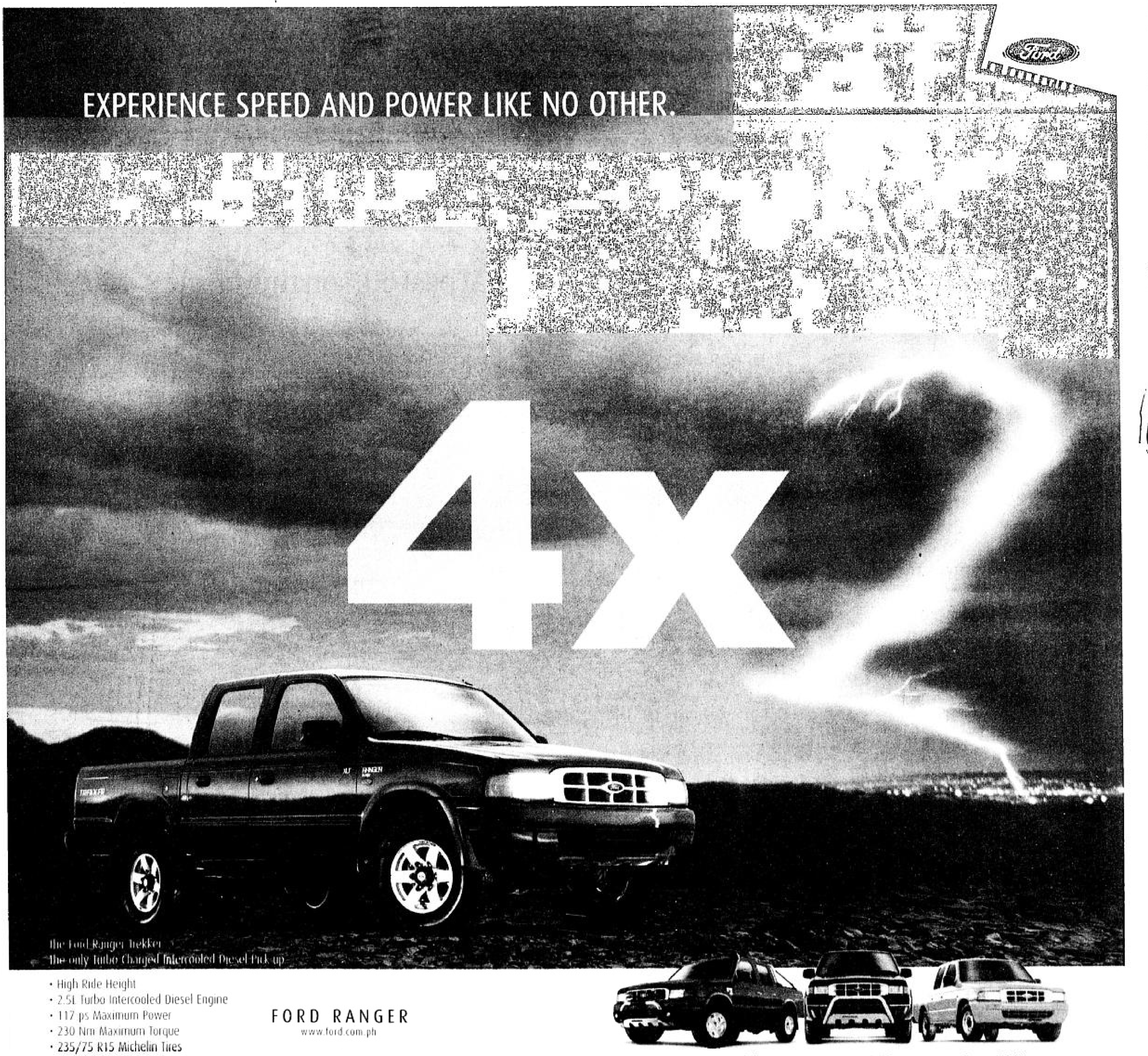
"People have said that the Araneta center was left behind by the other real estate developments in the city and I agree, but sometimes in life, you are able to do something better by doing nothing," Araneta says.

He explains that the Araneta group actually planned for the redevelopment of the Araneta center as early as the 1980s but plans fell through because of one crisis after another. There was the Edsa revolution of 1986, and when the plans were approved, they were scuttled following the 1989 coup d' etat.

AT/B2



ARANETA's office has a dramatic view of what would be the Metro Centro business district that includes Cubao. PHOTOS BY JOAN BONDOC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BANK OF THE PHILIPPINE ISLANDS
Makati City, Metro Manila

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS
April 12, 2002

To The Stockholders:

Pursuant to Article IV of the By-Laws of the Bank of the Philippine Islands (BPI), notice is hereby given that the Annual Meeting of the Stockholders of BPI will be held at the Grand Ballroom, Hotel Inter-Continental, Makati City, Metro Manila. on Friday, 12 April, 2001, at 9:00 o'clock in the morning, for the transaction of the following business:

1. Calling of Meeting to Order.
2. Certification of Notice.
3. Roll Call of Stockholders.
4. Determination and declaration of quorum.
5. Reading and approval of the minutes of the Annual Meeting of Stockholders on April 19, 2001.
6. Reading of Annual Report and approval of the Bank's Statement of Condition as of 31 December 2001 incorporated in the Annual Report.
7. Approval and confirmation of all acts during the past year of the Board of Directors, Executive Committee, Audit Committee, Trust Committee, Pension Committee, all other Board and Management Committees, and Officers of BPI.
8. Election of 15 Members of the Board of Directors.
9. Election of External Auditors and fixing their remuneration.
10. Declaration of Stock Dividends.
11. Directors' Bonus.
12. Other Matters.

In accordance with Article XII of the By-Laws, the Stock and Transfer Book of BPI will be closed from March 13, 2002 to April 12, 2002. Only Stockholders of record as of end of business hours on March 13, 2002 will be entitled to notice and to vote at the said meeting.

If it will be inconvenient for you to attend the meeting, you may at your option, appoint another person to represent you thereat by means of a proxy, which should be submitted to the Office of the Corporate Secretary of BPI, 19th Floor, BPI Building, Ayala Avenue corner Paseo de Roxas, Makati City, Metro Manila, not later than 5:00 P.M. of March 27, 2002. Validation of proxies shall be held at the same office on April 1, 2002 at 4:00 P.M.

When signing as attorney-in-fact, executor, administrator, guardian, or in any other representative capacity, please give full title and file papers showing your authority.

FOR THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
(Sgd.) CARLOS B. AQUINO
Vice President & Corporate Secretary

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School Year 2002-2003

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APRIL 27, 2002

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University of St. La Salle
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E-mail: admit@usls.edu.ph

BAGUIO CITY: Ms. Angelita A. Padilla
Guidance Director, Baguio Colleges Foundation
Tel. No.: (74) 4422564

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY: Ms. Flordeliza A. Velez
Testing Officer, Xavier University – Ateneo de Cagayan
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CEBU CITY: Mrs. Remedios A. Bacolap
Psychometrician, Testing Center
University of San Carlos
Telefax no.: (32) 2531000 loc. 181
E-mail: testing@pinya.usc.edu.ph

DAVAO CITY: Ms. Paulita C. Sarangan
Guidance Counselor, Ateneo de Davao University
Tel. No.: (82) 2212411 loc. 8309
E-mail: sarangan@magist.addu.edu.ph

DUMAGUETE CITY: Ms. Violeta H. Taves
Psychometrician, Silliman University
Tel. No.: (35) 422-6002 loc. 337

ILOILO CITY: Dr. Fely David
Dean, Graduate School
Central Philippine University
Telefax No.: (33) 3290418

LEGASPI CITY: Mr. Carlos Anto
Office of the Dean of Academic Affairs
Divine Word College
Tel. No.: (5521) 4515

NAGA CITY: Ms. Salene G. Torres
Director and Psychometrician
Institutional Testing Center-Ateneo de Naga
Tel. No.: (5424) 738447 / 739773 / 739934

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1. Submit complete application form, original or certified true copy of transcript of records, accomplished recommendation forms and two (2) copies of recently taken passport-size picture to the Admissions Office.
2. Pay the testing fee of US$20.00 at the cashier.
3. Present your receipt and get your exam permit with assigned test date and venue from the Admissions Office.
4. Examination starts at 12:45 pm and ends at 5:00 pm.

Please bring the following on the test date: test permit, two (2) pencils, two (2) black ballpens and a scientific calculator.

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What you can dream, you can also achieve

EXECUTIVE READ

"Dream The Boldest Dreams"
By Johnnetta B. Cole
Longstreet Press
Atlanta, Georgia

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

THE WORLDWIDE popularity of the Chicken Soup for the Soul and the Life's Little Instruction Book series prove that everybody loves sources of inspiration, be it for work, for life or for relationships.

The 89-page book "Dream The Boldest Dreams" is one such book, a digest of life's truths according to Johnnetta B. Cole.

This exemplary leader and role model is considered a "national treasure" in the United States due to her invaluable contributions to the fields of anthropology, women's studies and rights of people of color.

Cole shares in this book her thoughts on 11 topics—counsel, generosity, women, harmony, education, inspiration, growth, roots, philosophy, work and leadership, which she gleaned from a 37-year career in teaching and research in the areas of cultural anthropology, African-American Studies and Women's Studies.

Her thoughts reflect the woman herself, who strived and worked hard to eventually become the first African-American woman to serve as president of Spelman College. Under her leadership, Spelman became one of the top schools in the United States.

She is now president Emerita of Spelman College. She was also on former President Bill Clinton's transition team as cluster coordinator for education, labor, and arts and humanities.

The book shows her strongest convictions lie in encouraging excellence, self-improvement and generosity. At the same time, she casts a cold eye on intolerance, sexism and settling for mediocrity.

Here are some of her thoughts:

On counsel

"Never acquire a lifestyle you're willing to sell your soul to keep."

"It is best to leave while people still want you to stay."

"We each need to admit when we are wrong and be humble when we are right."

On generosity

"Anyone who ever gets to the top of a field does not get there by him or herself. And once there, you should not forget the responsibility to help others join you"

"The greatest expressions of generosity often come from those who have the fewest things to give."

"There is an important difference between what we need and what we want. Therein can lie the distinction between necessity and gluttony."

On women

"The problem with a woman standing behind her man is she can't see where she's going."

"No woman should be against men, but every woman should be for women."

"If you've seen one woman, you haven't seen us all."

"The main reason a woman's work is never done is because a man doesn't pitch in to help finish it."

"A truly determined woman will succeed in doing what society has determined she is incapable of doing."

On harmony

"How much better our world would be if each of us respected difference until difference doesn't make any more difference."

"Because freedom is indivisible, pitting one oppression against another harms us all."

"Racism, sexism, anti-Semitism, ablism and homophobia are learned. So we can unlearn them. Better yet, we could just stop teaching them."

"If what is preached in the world's churches, synagogues, mosques and temples was practiced by even a quarter of the folks who heard it all said—what a different planet we would have."

On education

"There is no such thing as an uneducable child, but there are unteaching teachers."

"A mistake can be a superb teacher of success."

"An education that teaches you to understand something about the world has done only half of the assignment. The other half is to teach you to do something about making the world a better place."

On inspiration

"Nothing heals as well as hope."

"Each of us has the power of transforming the ordinary into the extraordinary—the every day into the special. To do so is far more rewarding than going the other way around."

On growth

"Once you have no more questions to ask, the answer to the fundamental one—are you living fully—is a resounding no!"

"When things are done consistently the same old way, the same old results can be expected."

"Show me someone content with mediocrity and I'll show you someone destined for failure."

"What often stops our aspirations from turning into real possibilities is a lack of belief and a shortage of effort."

On roots

"Common sense may be the most priceless inheritance we can pass from one generation to the next."

WHAT/B3

At past 60, son moves . . .

From page B1

Just when they started the ball rolling on new plans, the country was hit by typhoons and earthquakes and then the Mt. Pinatubo eruption. Finally, there was the Asian currency crisis that caused many investors to shy away from the Philippines and other Asian countries.

"These were problems that caused us to take a step back but I think it was meant to be because our plans now are much better and grander than our previous plans and this is the plan that we are committed to do for the next 20 years," Araneta says.

The vision, in a nutshell, is to transform the Metro Centro area that includes Cubao from the Kamias areas to Santolan, into a bustling business, residential and commercial areas, rivaling those in Makati and in Alabang.

This is a joint project between the Quezon City government and the private sector.

But unlike the developments in other areas that target the rich people, Araneta Center and the rest of the Metro Centro areas would continue to cater to the middle class markets, true to the vision laid down by Don Amado Araneta.

The Araneta group already started the ball rolling by sprucing up the Araneta center, redeveloping the Farmers Market and Ali Mall. The Quezon City government, on the other hand, started the urban renewal of Quezon City by cleaning up the streets bordering the Araneta center, improving the lighting and fielding more security personnel.

QC's glory

The objective is to regain Quezon City's glory as a premiere city in the metropolis, and for Araneta Center to be the primary shopping and entertainment areas for the masses.

It is not exactly difficult for Jorge Araneta to relate to these markets and he credits this to his cockfighting.

He says one of the biggest benefits that he got from following the sport over the decades was dealing with all kinds of people.

"People who like cockfighting come from all walks of life. It does not matter if you are rich or poor. It is very democratic and I really believe that we have a sense of belonging, like a *barkada*, because we all follow the same sport," Araneta says.

Araneta claims that cockfighting is more of a hobby for him, but mention the name Araneta in the arena and it is enough to strike fear in the hearts of the competition. This is because his fighting cocks are known to come from a long line of winners.

"I am a complete player. I raise fighting cocks, I breed, I fight and I train. Not me personally, but I supervise. You would see me every Sunday checking up on my fighting cocks," Araneta says.

ARANETA says he wants people to say that the Araneta family did something worthwhile.

He has about 200 fighting cocks in his Cubao residence and another 500 in his cock farm in Talisay, Batangas.

"I used to be more active in the derby circuit. I used to go to the States to compete against American breeders. The most famous competition is the one in Louisiana, but I also used to go to fights in Mississipi, Arizona and California," he says.

Last year he fielded 325 of his fighting cocks in different derbies but he now only fights at the revered Araneta Coliseum, pitting his fighting cocks against those of other aficionados that include Danding Cojuangco, Jose Cojuangco, James Chiongbian and Narcisco Santiago Jr.

"I only join competitions at the Araneta because it is more organized and much cleaner than the places I used to go to with my father. I compete about 12 to 14 times a year and only from January to June, because the fighting cocks molt or shed feathers the rest of the year," he says.

Araneta puts the rest of the year, as well as the fighting cock season, to good use as he is personally involved in implementing the Metro Centro project. One of his pet projects, for instance, is the proposed Elephant World where children of all ages can interact with elephants to be brought in over the next three months.

He says the Elephant World is not there just for profit but for the people, just another way for him to remain true to his father's vision.

"I want our legacy to be that we did something worthwhile and that we were of service to our fellow man," he says.

Oman waitress serves new business in Zamboanga

By Elizabeth Lolarga

WHO would have thought that the potential for fortune would arrive in a coffee shop called Café Glacier in the middle of the Sahara? Well, there's a bit of an exaggeration there. The country where this true tale happened was Oman.

But the beginnings of hardship were felt by a winsome lass who was toiling as a postal worker in Zamboanga for two years before her aunt persuaded her to go abroad for a better-paying job.

Solina Taub, now 34 and a single mother of a 10-year-old boy, imagined her life going on and on as a waitress earning $650 a month at Café Glacier in a shopping mall in Masqat, Oman. Every two years she managed to come home to spend a month with her son Edsel whom she left when he was just one year old.

The waitressing lasted from eight to 12 hours, much of it spent standing up. She had no time for friends and could not afford to get sick.

In October 2001, on her eighth year at her job, she noticed Ali Sharji, co-founder of BizNas ("Biz" is short for business and "Nas" is the Arabic word for people), talking to business prospects at the café. Imran Khan is the other co-founder.

Curiously she approached Ali and asked to be informed more about the business that involved multilevel or network marketing.

It did not take long for her to make a decision in the direction of a more promising future. She borrowed to pay the required $70 enrolment fee and started referring people to BizNas—relatives, friends, casual acquaintances met at parties and customers at the coffee shop.

TAUB: Finding fortune in a coffee shop.

BizNas tries to make computer education affordable to a wide market and to prepare people for e-commerce. The business, registered in Oman and Dubai, is run by an experienced and professional management team.

In fact, they recently opened the Internet Marketing Center of Excellence (IMCOE), which trains would-be e-commerce entrepreneurs, at Unit 403 at the Star Mall on Shaw Boulevard, Mandaluyong City. Its mission is to help 100,000 people become financially independent in two years or less.

IMCOE provides new technology for those illiterate about computers, the Internet and websites. In short, the main product is education. People learn about this system through word of mouth or referral marketing.

How did it work out for the diligent Solina? After submitting a number of referrals, she received her first weekly check from BizNas amounting to $848 and was able to pay her initial debt.

She told herself, "If I maintain that or hit $1,500 a week, I will resign and head for home." On the first week of November 2001, she received more than $1,000, folded her apron and left Café Glacier. Her employer tried to restrain her by saying, "You'll regret it, Solina. You'll come back." But by then she was receiving three to four times her former salary.

Back in the Philippines she joined BizNas fulltime to be closer to her small family. When she started, this AB Psychology dropout from the Western Mindanao State University did not have any knowledge of e-mail or a website. Quickly she learned to open her e-mail and visit website apart from earning $2,000 a week.

During her last trip to Manila. She was able to billet herself at the Horizon Edsa Hotel instead of a fleabag hotel downtown. Not only that. With her increased income, she bought a lot in Zamboanga where she will eventually build a house. Ever practical she made sure to buy a memorial plan, too.

Most of all, she was able to make it up to Edsel for all that lost time. She paid for the operation of her mother who was ill with cervical cancer. On week-

OMAN/B4

Philippine AXA Life posts 160% growth in 2001

PHILIPPINE AXA Life posts 160-percent growth after registering total gross premium income of P1.5 billion last year versus P577 million in 2000. This dramatic leap is a result of the company's ongoing strategic move to establish a competitive foothold in the market through the combined efforts of its three main distribution channels, namely the agencies, bancassurance and group.

In addition, the move is said to be aligned with The Global AXA Group's vision of continuously adapting to business environments where competition is intense, profitability targets are high and customers' needs are changing radically.

According to Victor P. Quisumbing, Philippine AXA Life president and CEO, "the strategic move is in keeping with the AXA global vision of being competitive in every country it operates in while at the same time, being the best in the industry it serves."

He attributed the company's rapid growth to the ceaseless and dedicated efforts of all its sales personnel, not to mention the invaluable support provided by its affiliated brokers. He added that there was a 73-percent increase in the number of agents licensed by the company last year from 595 agents to over 1,028 new agents deployed nationwide as a result of an intensive six-month recruitment campaign.

To sustain this growth, the company has geared up for an expansion program that includes the opening of more AXA branch offices by the end of 2002.

All these offices will have the distinct AXA look which carries the AXA signature worldwide. Philippine AXA Life aims to be among the top key players in the local life insurance industry within the next few years.

In keeping with the AXA mission, Quisumbing added, "We seek to provide support, care, advice and customized services that address client needs as they evolve over time. By offering financial security, we empower our clients to take the risks required to pursue their protects. We believe in helping our clients get the best out of life."

Philippine AXA Life, a member of The Global AXA Group, has assets totaling P2.6 billion and shareholder funds of P435 million (based on unaudited figures as of Dec. 31, 2001). AXA has been named by Fortune magazine as the world's largest insurance company for three consecutive years.

The Metrobank Group is its major shareholder with consolidated resources totaling P459 billion and capital funds over P48 billion, thereby being the largest financial conglomerate in the country. Metrobank is the country's largest bank with a network of 800 branches and offices managing over 7,000 employees.

What you can . . .

From page B2

"We had nothing to do with who our ancestors were. But we can have so much to do with who our children become."

On philosophy

"Anticipating a good thing is sometimes better than the reality of it."

"Organizations, like individuals, must be big enough to admit mistakes, smart enough to profit from them and strong enough to correct them."

"There are a few possessions which once gone are impossible to recapture. Your integrity is one of them."

On work

"Don't leave a job too soon or stay too long."

"Careful how you treat folks on your way up the ladder. You may well meet them on an unwanted trip down."

On leadership

"Surround yourself with loyal but mediocre people and that's what you will get: loyal but mediocre people."

"With the mantle of leadership comes the responsibility of knowing when to be silent, and even when to stand still."

"The best leaders follow their hearts as well as their heads, and they never ever leave their principles behind."

Understand her policies on life and you would undoubtedly put down her book raring to be a better man or woman.

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HYUNDAI
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HYUNDAI ASIA RESOURCES, INC.

Glamor studio chain built by creating illusions

By Mei Magsino
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

BATANGAS CITY—"We based our business on the survey we had that 90 percent of Filipinas are *illusionadas*. From just one glamour photography studio in Manila, we have grown to 14 branches all over the Philippines," Leandre Guevara said as he transformed a client's face into a G Toengi look-alike by just a thin makeup and simple brush strokes. On the printed photo, the client looks more beautiful. Her photo can even pass for a magazine cover.

"A little makeup, good lighting, a little pampering, and the client can feel like a movie star. From there, she can be self-confident and you can see the glow in her eyes as you take her glamour photo. And do you know what you'll get? The best picture that a woman has ever had," claimed Guevara.

Even if he is the chief executive officer of L. S. Guevara Enterprises and a group of glamour photo studios, Guevara still does the makeup of clients and sets up their hairstyle.

Breaking rules

Guevara, a political science graduate of Adamson University in 1982, started in the photography business in 1986 using borrowed cameras and equipment loaned to him by a rich friend in Las Piñas, Manila.

"At first, I just took '2 x 2' photos for passports. But when I was trained by foreign photographers in a seminar at the Las Piñas Church, I learned to do away with all the written rules in photography books," he said.

For instance, he said, a photographer should not tell a client what pose makes her beautiful.

"The client knows how to make herself appear beautiful. As a photographer, you should follow that," he added.

With the new knowledge in photography, Guevara broke away from his friend's photo studio in 1992 and set up his own glamour photo studio, also in Las Piñas. He named the studio Episode.

Episode did not advertise. Targeting mostly high school students, word of mouth spread and more women have flocked the studio to have their photos taken and make their features appear like the cover girls they see on magazines and the movie stars they watch on television.

"Filipinas are more exposed to the media, and seeing the beautiful and flawless faces of movie stars on the television and the magazines, they want to look like those classic beauties. That's exactly what glamour studio can give to the Filipina," Guevara explained.

Another rule of photographers that Guevara broke was the number of shots he took of the client.

EPISODE says that a survey shows that Filipinas are *illusionadas*.

From Episode, Guevera set up another glamour photo studio in Manila called Secrets Studio.

Here, the Bellestar dancers became their regular clients, as the girls are able to get good photos in such a short time.

"The Bellestar dancers are always in a hurry while they also need the best photos of themselves. With us, we give them their best shots and we give these fast," Guevara claimed.

Mary Jones

Guevara's major strength came from his wife, Mary Jones, whom he met at a beauty salon, also in Las Piñas.

A Max Factor beauty consultant and makeover artist, Mary Jones has a talent to turn women's faces into classic beauties. This and Guevara's gift of glamour photography became a perfect combination for the business.

"Never before was photography given a professionalized approach with a personal touch as we have," Mary Jones said, "From there, we grew."

As Episode grew, the L. S. Guevara Enterprises Inc. was born as a family-owned corporation.

The studios the company has set have one thing in common—the names are all adjectives women wish for themselves.

"We made it that way for people to be curious and to try to know what we are. That's another different approach I did with photography. If I name it like 'Andres studio,' people would look for Andres. If I name it Gorgeous, people will come here and look for ways to make themselves look and feel gorgeous," Guevara said.

In 1997, he set up his own studio at the Caedo Commercial Complex in Batangas City. He named his studio Gorgeous.

For P150, a client can get four shots of different angles and costumes, a standard package for the glamour studio. Clients would always return to have more copies of their glamour photo and, again, the word spreads.

Plans

Guevara always had big plans, which he executes with precision.

For starters, Guevara took photos of the Binibining Lunsod ng Batangas for free and even produced the opening billboard for the beauty contest.

When the contestants, judges and the audiences saw how the ladies' faces were transformed, Gorgeous photo studio became an overnight sensation in Batangas.

Here, different hairstyle can also create more angles.

But what Guevara did to make Batangueñas accept the tube was a risk no photographer in the city has taken before.

"I guaranteed the clients a full refund of their money should the tube look bad on them," Guevara said. He never refunded any payment.

Last year, a competitor glamour studio in Cebu City, where the company has three branches, pirated seven of his staff.

That competitor copied all of Guevara's techniques and threatened their sales.

"All of our clients here have profiles in our database. Three months before the competition became stiff, I have already studied the customer profiles. From there, we took advantage of customer loyalty," Guevara said.

Competing his own

L. S. Guevara's 14 studios operate independently, and even compete with each other.

"That's another scheme to determine how to overcome the problems of each studio. If I know each studio's weakness and how to turn it down, chances are, each one of them will be stronger than the problems they will encounter," Guevara pointed out.

Guevara advised that in all business ventures, one has to take risks.

"But you also have to make sure that you have all the weapons to win. In our case, we created the illusion of beauty. Every woman wants to be beautiful, and would pay any price to look as good as any model or movie star," the glamour photo expert disclosed.

Oman waitress serves . . .

From page B3

ends she brings her kid to the local Jollibee restaurant and watches him whoop it up in the playground.

Simple joys. Meanwhile, she continues to befriend people around her, tell them about BizNas and make important contacts.

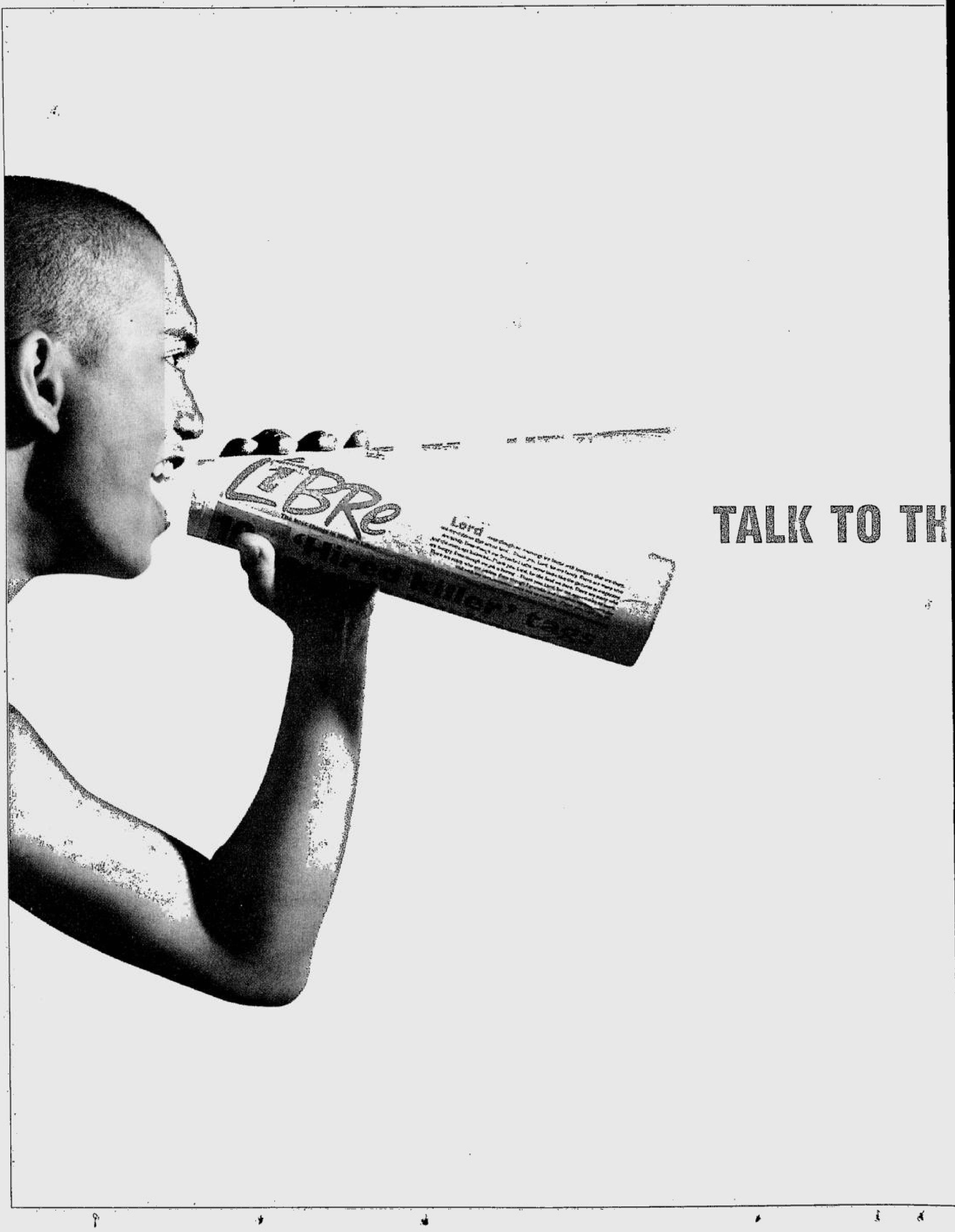
BizNas was so impressed by her performance and commitment that she has been invited to open another center fronting the Coca-Cola plant along Tetuan Highway, Zamboanga City.

And she won't be taking orders for café latte or cappucino there. She'll be busy offering her townmates al alternative to overseas employment. That'll be the sixth BizNas center apart from the ones in Dubai in the United Arab Emirates, Oman, Manila, Karachi and Rawalpindi in Pakistan.

The center supports BizNas associates or members through leadership and product training and business presentations. The products include interactive computer courses, do-it-yourself web builders, 5 x 10 megabytes of web space and a privilege card—all for only P3,900.

Solina also made sure that she got a business visa so she could spread the word to overseas workers, not only Filipinos, in Oman, Dubai and Abu Dhabi about the future in e-commerce. It is dignified work that they can do at home without the great emotional cost of being wrenched from their loved ones. She has seen too many traumas of this kind happen, herself not exempted.

From her experience she was able to formulate her now steadfast belief "Everybody deserves a better life."



Teacher turns ‘playground’ into lucrative venture

By Cristina Arzadon
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

PAOAY, Ilocos Norte—To college instructor Rosario Reotita, getting into business does not always mean you want to get rich. Not right away anyway.

Reotita, along with her husband Jesus who is also a teacher in a public school here, said she went into business without any business background.

"I know nothing about running a business. But I've learned that when business is slow, I won't be able to pay my workers. And when workers don't show up, the business runs idle," Reotita, a ceramics technology instructor at the state-run Mariano Marcos State University-College of Technology, said.

With this in mind, Reotita went on a reality check and began re-orienting her staff of 12 contractual workers that her business does not intend to just draw the money.

Being a teacher in ceramics technology, Reotita determined the path for the couple to put up in 1997 the Veronica Ceramics, a cottage-type industry named after her village that manufactures terracotta products.

The company uses local clay extracted from rice fields as raw material. Its product line includes miniature pots and stoves inspired by the Ilocanos' traditional cooking earthenware, the *banga* and *dalikan*, jars, vases, candle holders, ashtrays, wind chimes and other decorative items.

The firm counts on local tourists as its major market. Demand peaks during the town fiestas where officials would order big quantities to be given away as souvenir items to visitors.

Veronica Ceramics' main outlet, which used to be a garage in the Reotita's bungalow, is near the Paoay Church, a United Nations-declared World Heritage site frequently visited by local and foreign tourists.

During lean days, their products are being sold to souvenir shops on a consignment basis.

Some of their regular outlets include the provincial museum located in Laoag City and the Bagnos Training Center here.

Their workers are jobless villagers, former students and Reotita's children.

"My purpose is to help create employment for my neighbors and students," she said.

She described her company as a "playground," where the "big boys" can step inside to play around with clay and from it produce a variety of collectible items.

The Reotita couple built a small annex near the family's kitchen to serve as a working, storage and production area.

"I call it a smart way of keeping my kids away from the streets," Reotita said, referring to her children whom she hired to work part time during non-school days.

Husband Jesus takes care of the managerial, marketing and production aspects of the business.

Reotita traced the beginning of her business from her job as an instructor at the MMSU that provides research and extension services to communities.

Being one of the university's designated trainers, Reotita found her way back in the company of her neighbors who wanted to turn their idle time into something worthwhile.

The village council gathered all jobless men and women in the neighborhood to attend a workshop on pot making. Reotita served as demonstrator.

The village officials initially wanted their constituents to produce materials that could be exhibited during the town's fiesta and other local occasions.

But more than a village project, the officials were hopeful that the workshop would open doors for livelihood ventures and eventually, a cooperative.

"But after the workshop, my neighbors easily lost interest in pursuing the activity because they lacked the materials and capital to start their own," Reotita said.

"So I thought of investing on production materials so that the skills they gained from the workshops would not go to waste."

She then bought a second-hand electric kiln and started hiring her neighbors to produce small collectible items. Initially, villagers were enthusiastic about the venture as they got paid for every piece they assembled. But as time went by, the workers thinned out until no one was showing up at the couple's working area.

THE VILLAGE council gathered all jobless men and women in the neighborhood to attend a workshop on pot making.

Apparently, the residents were preoccupied with household chores that they could not find time to report for work.

To break the impasse, Reotita agreed to allow the workers to bring home the raw materials and work during their free time.

The arrangement did not work well because the company needed personnel to work full time and under direct supervision to ensure quality control and craftsmanship.

She then hired her former students who finished the ceramics course and were hunting for jobs.

"I took pity on one of our graduates who kept on coming back to school to follow up his application papers for a teaching job. Two presidents had gone by, still the papers were not moving," Reotita said.

"I offered him to join my small business where everyone merely plays around and gets something fruitful out of it," she added.

From "a playground," the business took a turn when the Department of Trade Industry came.

When the company secured its registration and working permits, it had to submit product samples for DTI's evaluation.

"That's where they saw our products' potential for a wider market," Reotita recalled.

The couple then started joining DTI-organized trade fairs where local manufacturers are given opportunity to exhibit and sell their products to customers who belong to a higher income bracket.

"Our participation in trade exhibits paid off in terms of expanding the market and creating a network of regular buyers who are also owners of boutiques and gift shops," Reotita, a regular exhibitor since 1998, said.

The brighter prospect came last year when the DTI decided to register the firm with the National Trade Fair (NTF) held annually at the SM Megamall's Megatrade Halls in Manila.

The NTF is organized by various DTI support agencies like the Megma Foundation (Market Encounter Goes to Manila), the Bureau of Domestic Trade Promotion and the Product Development and Design Center of the Philippines which are into marketing and promotions of local manufacturers.

"At first, we were overwhelmed with the idea of taking our products to Manila because we did not have adequate finances to meet the NTF's pre-qualification requirements," Reotita said.

The couple admitted that they met most of the NTF's standards except for one that required the company to have a production and financial capability to supply a con-

TEACHER/ B6

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HK clings to rich lifestyle

HONG KONG—Hong Kong's economic downturn has not deterred its wealthy denizens from craving luxury cars, brand-name goods and champagne.

Several firms had reported an increase in sales over the past few months, despite the economic difficulties the territory was facing, press reports said.

Mike Rushworth, an agent for luxury carmaker Porsche and the Motor Trades Association said last year had been the best ever for Porsche and this year was looking just as good.

"In February we had a shipment of 42 cars to be delivered to customers and that's the highest ever recorded—the second highest was 25 cars in 1996," Rushworth told the South China Morning Post.

He said Hong Kong buyers of luxury European cars also benefited from a deflated euro that made costs equal to or, in some cases, cheaper than Japanese alternatives.

A spokesperson for Mercedes-Benz also said the company had registered a 10-percent increase in sales from 2000 to 2001, and bumper sales were also expected this year.

Top brand names were also reporting rising sales, with Chanel and Daks saying the luxury market had not suffered from Hong Kong's recession.

Dilip Soman, marketing associate professor at Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, said the phenomenon was exacerbated in Hong Kong's economy where there was a gaping chasm between rich and poor.

"The rich have adapted to an extravagant lifestyle and their response to a recession is to work harder to maintain the lifestyle. As a result, the lower income rungs feel pressured to spend more too."

Hong Kong's economy underwent a downward adjustment in 2001 with growth of only 0.1 percent in real terms, much lower than 2000's 10.5 percent real growth.

Deflation continued, with the composite consumer price index falling by 1.6 percent last year, and unemployment rising to its highest level since the 1980s at 6.7 percent in the quarter ending January. *AFP*

IN YOUR FACE

BY L.P. LEVISTE

ROBERT Coyiuto always seems to be in the thick of things at the Philippine Stock Exchange.

The former chairn of the Manila Stock Exchange is now embroiled in another war with constant rival Vivian Yuchengco who belonged to the Makati Stock Exchange.

The question is, who is this year's rightful chair of the PSE? Is it Coyiuto whose directors got most of the brokers' seats, or Vivian who got only one from her slate elected to the board? Still others ask what's all this desire for power at the PSE—it's not as if the local exchange is the envy of others. But then again isn't the PSE controversy a reflection of what's happening in the country—too much politics, too little progress?

Watch out for the next episode in this exciting saga.

Phone firm parties high in land Down Under

By Abigail L. Ho

WITH laser lights, Harley Davidsons, a two centuries old exhibition hall and kangaroo appetizers, Nokia, the world's leading cellular phone manufacturer, launched a new line of handsets that would make any tech fanatic drool.

The event, dubbed "Style My Mobile World," was aptly set in Melbourne, Australia, where the old converged with the new. Skyscrapers stood beside centuries-old buildings, the same way Nokia's new handsets incorporated new technology with familiar handset designs.

On March 12, a sumptuous feast set up in popular concert hall and Australian Open venue Rod Laver Arena kicked off the two-day affair. The entrance to the stadium was jazzed up to look like something out of a Star Wars movie.

Multi-colored laser lights lit the way as guests made their way inside a silver tube that led to the arena. House lights were turned off. Only intense, colored spotlights lit the huge venue.

While around 200 Asia-Pacific journalists and Nokia partners were having kangaroo and quail legs for appetizers, an orchestra especially put together for the event, provided entertainment.

The Mobile Style Orchestra, a nine-man group that included someone who played the Australian wind instrument didgeridoo, played music ranging from funky to rock to ethnic.

Behind the orchestra, ceiling-to-floor white curtains hid part of the arena from view. As the main course was being served, guests waited in bated breath for the revelation of what was behind those curtains.

Before dessert, the curtains were dropped, revealing an exhibit featuring Nokia's latest offerings. Various desserts—exotic ice cream, mousses and fruits—were placed within each phone's exhibit set up for guests to sample.

The new phones are all general packet radio service (GPRS)-enabled. Most of the new handsets were enhanced versions of older phones, with newer functions, richer displays and state-of-the-art messaging capabilities.

With its new phones, Nokia combined the world's latest innovations in information technology and telephony with the affinity that almost 40 percent of the world's cellular phone-toting population had with its handsets.

Highlighted innovations included Java technology, multimedia messaging service (MMS), tri-band capability and polyphony.

The Java platform would pave the way for richer applications, both useful and fun. Gamers, especially the youth and the middle youth (with ages ranging from 25 to 40 years old), would be treated to more vivid pictures with this exciting innovation.

MMS, on the other hand, would allow mobile subscribers to send picture, audio and video files via text messaging. Right now, the country's cellular service providers, Globe Telecom Inc. and Smart Communications Inc., are still conducting test operations of their GPRS networks.

This would later allow their subscribers to have the MMS experience.

While having a richer messaging experience, users of these yet-to-be-launched mobile phones would also be treated to more resonant audio with polyphonic tones.

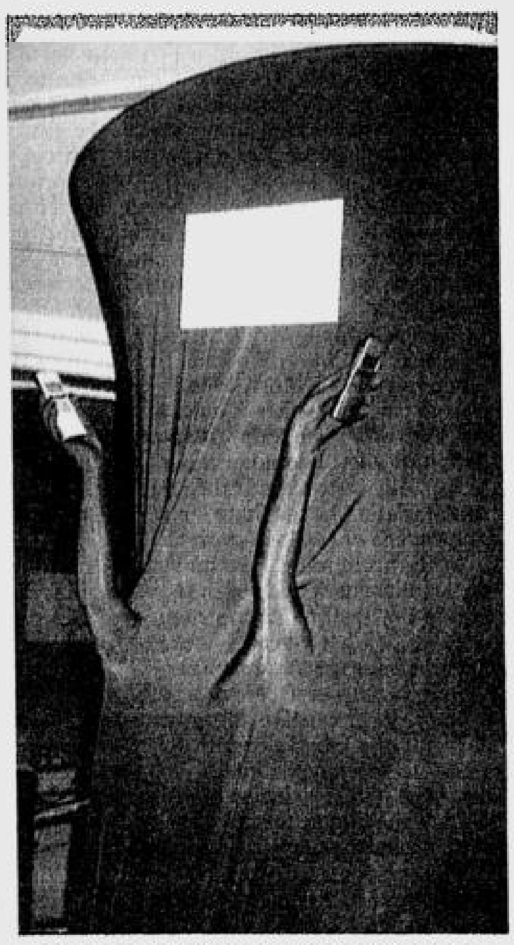
Aside from the familiar monotones currently used as ring tones, MIDI tones that sound almost like compact disc music could also be used.

Finally, the tri-band would allow the handset to be used on the global system for mobile communications (GSM) 900, 1800 and 1900 bands. This is a plus for frequent flyers as some countries only operate on one or two of these bands.

After giving the guests a taste of things to come, Nokia gave them several helpings of technology and innovations education on the second day of the event.

Two panel discussions about mobile music services and mobile gaming were held, with panelists hailing from the music and gaming industries as well as from the Nokia Mobile Phones Asia-Pacific headquarters.

After the sessions, an exhibit allowing guests to experience the new phones for themselves was opened. It was more or less the same installations as in the cocktails, but this time with more time for the guests to actually sample the handsets' new offerings.



THE MELBOURNE launch of Nokia combined the old with the new and the futuristic.

The long day was capped by a dinner in one of Melbourne's oldest structures, the Royal Exhibition

The building was built in 1880 and once served as a hospital and a morgue before it became an exhibition hall.

Multi-colored spotlights again lit the venue and provided a mix of old architecture and new technology. After dinner, the massive front door of the hall opened and several Harley Davidsons drove in.

The journalists literally let their hair down as they were taken for a spin in the city on board the Harleys. Although the event was quite short and not much time was given for the guests to actually go around the city, Style My Mobile World gave almost 200 journalists the chance to experience new technology while having a date with Melbourne's history.

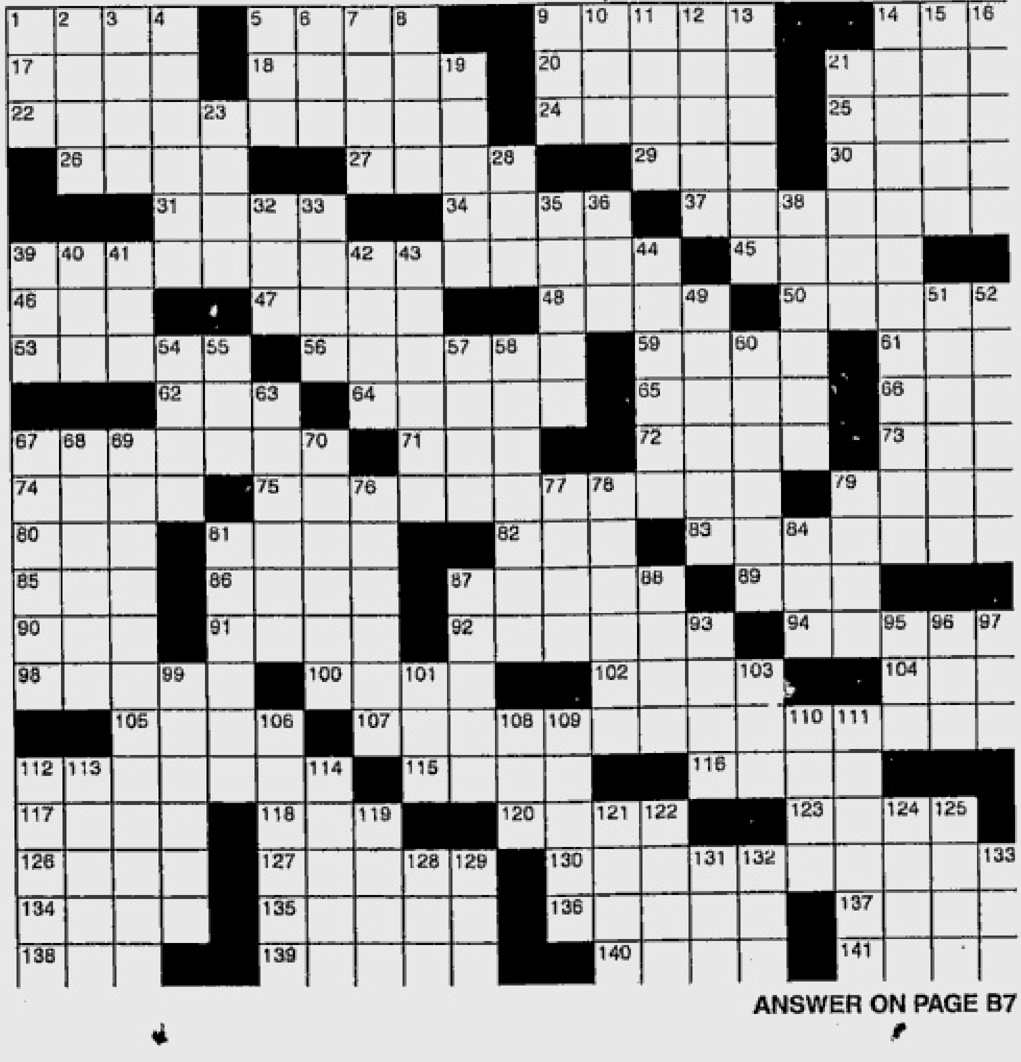
SUNDAY CROSSWORD

ACROSS

1 Ruth's husband
5 Approximately
9 Analyze a sentence
14 Postal abbr.
17 Tennis pro Nastase
18 Sri —
20 Humpback's home
21 Geometric figure
22 President who was a male model
24 Electrical inventor
25 Shortly
26 European capital
27 Part of Indonesia
29 Flat hat
30 It's good in a pinch
31 Adequate
34 "Picnic" playwright
37 '68 Tom Jones hit
39 President whose first language wasn't English
45 Alight
46 Out — limb
47 Debut recording
48 Shake — (hurry)
50 Trunk
53 Black and white delight
56 Petrarch product
59 Cleanse
61 Musical sensitivity
62 Inventor Whitney
64 Climb
65 Art deco designer
66 Writer Rand
67 Bug barriers
71 Vein contents
72 TV's "— Search"
73 Actress Scala
74 Couple
75 First president born in a hospital
79 Gasp
80 Business abbr.
81 Crooner Vallee
82 Adjust an ascot
83 Settle a score
85 Super Bowl sound
86 "Mila 18" author
87 Biblical city
89 Aachen article
90 Drillers' org.
91 Conveyed
92 Machine tool
94 Annual award
98 Coniferous tree
100 "Bhagavad —"
102 Aphrodite's son
104 Mellow
105 Comic Carey
107 President born on July 4th
112 Apple variety
115 Smile
116 "Entre —"
117 In the thick of
118 Insert dialogue
120 "Shane" star
123 Binchy's "— Road"
126 Prepare to fly
127 Sheer fear
130 President who was a fighter pilot
134 Jogger's gait
135 Rent
136 Tropical tree
137 Singer Brickell
138 Offense
139 A la King?
140 Soho streetcar
141 "— on Me" ('72 hit)

DOWN

1 Giant
2 Bread spread
3 Pretension
4 Fanatic
5 Word with hat or hand
6 Brit. fliers
7 Social climber
8 Creole veggie
9 Ample abdomen
10 "Stroker —" ('83 film)
11 Take five
12 Tuna concoction
13 Pottery protection
14 President who worked as a lifeguard
15 "— Gay"
16 Fractional amount
19 Improvise
21 Vegas place
23 Valhalla villain
28 Shiba — (Japanese dog)
32 Link letters?
33 Monsieur Montand
35 Prepare the Parmesan
36 Sushi candidate
38 Foam
39 Lave the linoleum
40 Santa —, CA
41 Hightailed it
42 Grandpa McCoy
43 Sarge, e.g.
44 Most recent
49 Elastic band
51 Adage
52 Elaborate
54 Forest beauty
55 Kensington quaff
57 Not any
58 College member
60 Rubbernecked
63 Harm
67 Pasta shape
68 London's location
69 President portrayed in an opera
70 It's on the house
76 Occult
77 — -de-camp
78 Start again
79 Uruguayan currency
81 Running plays
84 Delivery truck
87 Trite
88 Artist Chagall
93 High time?
95 Spoiled
96 Quiche ingredient
97 Poe's "Annabel —"
99 Recognition
101 Zipper part
103 Jack of "Barney Miller"
106 Act like a duck
108 Kilmer or Bisoglio
109 Persona
110 Serenade accompaniment
111 Actress Sanford
112 The Rolling Stones' Charlie
113 Japanese porcelain
114 Blender setting
119 Grumpy guy
121 Obligation
122 "Stage —" ('37 film)
124 Impolite
125 Kuwait's continent
128 "— live and breathe!"
129 Singer Joey
131 Genetic letters
132 Room for improvement?
133 Female fow



ANSWER ON PAGE B7

Teacher...

From page B5

tainer-load of products (equivalent to at least 10,000 pieces) within 30 days.

"We lacked the manpower and the necessary equipment to produce items in big volumes," she said.

Reotita recalled turning down a businessman last year who asked them to produce a container load of assorted pieces in one month.

"I had to back down from the negotiations because we can hardly produce 2,000 pieces in one month," she said.

Despite the failed opportunity to book major orders from the NTF, the Veronica Ceramics did not go home empty-handed.

It did not only dispose of most of the products they brought to the fair, the firm also inked several deals with businessmen from Manila, Baguio and Davao.

While they were unable to close negotiations with export companies, the Reotitas found solace in the thought that 200 pieces of Veronica Ceramics have found their way in Hong Kong, courtesy of a businessman from Caloocan City.

The company's business profile is also posted on the DTI's online directory of manufacturers all over the country.

With the online directory, the DTI booked orders for Veronica Ceramics from businessmen based in Cebu, Manila and Bulacan.

"We got the orders through e-mails. And we just relayed the information to the Reotitas," said Charlie Gaoiran, officer-in-charge of the DTI's trade development division.

From Day One of Veronica Ceramics' entry to the NTF, Gaoiran had been working with the Reotita couple in product development and marketing assistance to harness the company's business potentials.

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Candies from 'buri'

By Julio Manalo Cueto

PERHAPS many do not know where those native candies, popularly known as "*pakaskas*," are manufactured. Actually, these are made in an isolated and helmet-shaped isle called Verde Island or Isle Verde, which lies south of Batangas City, along the rough passage of the South China Sea to the Visayas and Mindanao.

In Verde Island, Batangas City, which is a *buri*-palm studded isle, many of the rustic inhabitants are engaged in the operation and production of *pakaskas*.

Pakaskas making is an age-old cottage industry on the isle, the only place in the Philippines where the production of such a rare Batangas product is found. *Pakaskas* is literally referred to as "candies from *buri*!"

A family engaged in the business, especially in Barangays San Antonio and San Agapito of Verde Island, usually earns P400 a week. Therefore, many islanders are going into this home industry.

Pakaskas, made from the sweet burl sap—and the term was originally derived from the process of scraping the sugar from boiling burl sap—is a seasonal trade. Verde Islanders make the candies only during the dry season, from December to April.

This home industry is a difficult trade. It takes steady effort, strength and patience for a family to engage in this profitable business.

Let us go with the family of *pakaskas* makers as they begin to produce these seasonal candies.

Pakaskas comes from the sweet burl sap. The tuba gatherer or "*mangangarit*" goes to get the tuba, carrying a short bamboo tube—which is commonly called "*balawit*"—slung on his shoulder and climbs up about 10 to 12 tall burl palm trees.

Up the high palm tree, the *mangangarit* unsheathes his long and keen bolo from the sheath corded around his waist. He then begins scraping off the pulp (ubod) of the burl palm tree to make the sweet burl sap flow.

The gathered burl juice is later transferred and poured out into the other *balawit* stored up in the cottage. Sleepless, the *mangangarit* does the hard job daily, especially during nighttime. Amid the quietude of midnight, the tuba gatherer, while on the top of the burl palm tree, beats his *karatong* (a small rounded bamboo), primitively resounding over the legendary isle, thus announcing the beginning of *pakaskas* making for the day.

The making of these native confectioneries is quite primitive. In the early morning, the gathered delicious burl sap is then poured out into a big *talyasi* placed over a huge circular cemented cooker (*pugon*)—powered by big, burning logs beneath—and boiled into reddish-brown molasses.

After four hours, the *talyasi* would be taken off from the *pugon* and then put on a level ground. The molasses are then carefully stirred by a muscular and skillful male *pakaskas* makers in a circular movement, and done with a big, rounded piece of wood (a clean one) until the molasses gradually change into granulated sugar.

The process is known as "*balibol*," in the islander's lingo.

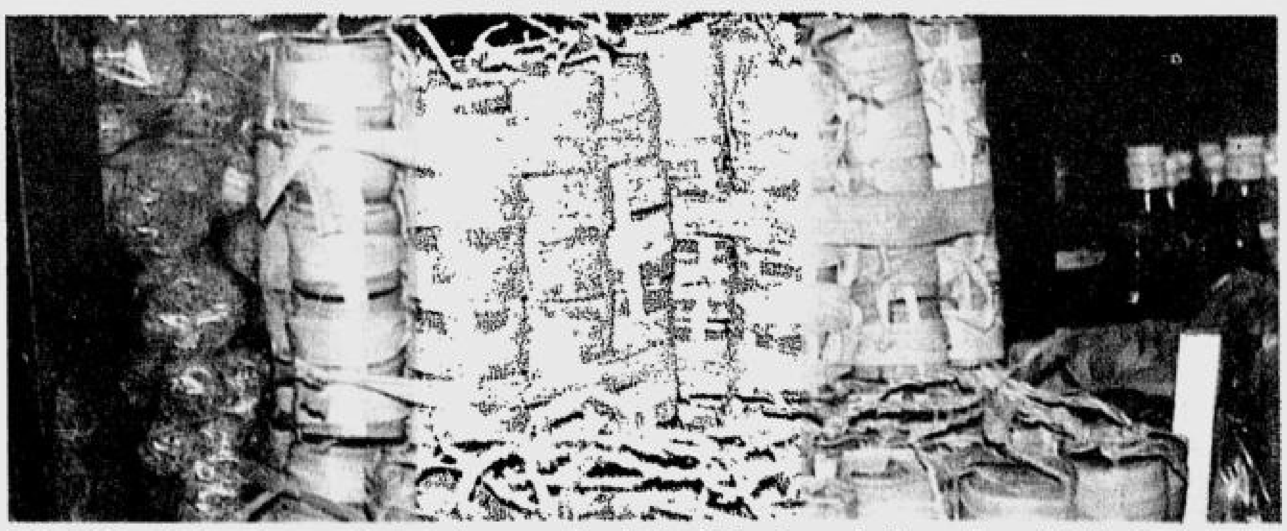
Using clean sticks, the family of *pakaskas* makers scrapes off the sugar and packs it into the dried, rounded burl molds known as "*kasitas*," where the molasses slowly dry. Then the molded candies are wrapped in dried burl leaves and are now ready for export.

Every *kasitas* is separately packed by 10s and carefully wrapped and tied together. A pack of these candies is called "*isang talakid na pakaskas*," in the dialect of the Verde Islanders.

Mang Juan, a native of the place and who had engaged in the trade for a long time, says it has been a profitable business for them.

A great quantity of *pakaskas* is exported to the markets of Batangas, Lucena City, Marinduque, Romblon, Tarlac and Metro Manila during summertime. Packages of *pakaskas* are also brought by Pinoys as *pasalubong* when they return to the United States, Canada and Europe.

These native sweatmeats attract many customers, among them tourists, who bought many packages of aforesaid delicious *matamis sa buli*. A favorite dessert, these native confectioneries can be purchased in the local market for as low as P10 a package.



PAKASKAS, made from the sweet burl sap, is a seasonal trade. Verde Islanders make the candies only during the dry season, from December to April.

ANSWER TO SUNDAY CROSSWORD

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Broker opens doors while others close down

HONG KONG-based CLSA Emerging markets and the Exchange Capital Corp. (ECC) of Manila recently finalized an investment banking joint venture to be known as CLSA Exchange Capital Inc. CLSA will acquire 60 percent of the new company.

Luis Juan Virata, ECC chair said that by aligning the two companies' investment banking services, the new company would be able to offer comprehensive cross border capital markets and financial advisory services to the Philippine corporate sector.

CLSA Exchange Capital also plans to provide clients with greater insight and access to a broader range of financial expertise.

Michael McCoy CLSA executive chair explained that CLSA has remained steadfast while other companies have stayed away from the Philippines. This investment reaffirms CLSA's commitment to the Philippines and to providing its clients with a balance of local know-how and a global perspective.

McCoy says CLSA has not only retained its seat in the local stock exchange, but also continued its research and promotion of the Philippines. It has also chosen to increase its Philippine presence by investing in this joint venture with ECC.

CLSA has over 700 employees in 29 countries and is widely recognized as a leader in brokerage and investment banking services in the emerging markets of Asia, Latin America, emerging Europe, the Middle East and Africa.

CLSA is a 65 percent owned subsidiary of France's Credit Lyonnais Bank, which was established in 1863 and is now one of Europe's largest banks with approximately $170 Billion in assets, 51,000 employees and an S&P rating of A-.

Credit Lyonnais offers a full range of financial services through its offices in over 60 countries worldwide.

ECC formerly known as Jardine Fleming Exchange Capital Group, Inc., is a leading local investment bank and is the top underwriter of equity and equity-linked securities for Philippine companies in the international markets.

Since 1993, ECC was responsible for raising over $2.5 billion in equity linked financing for Philippine companies.

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4. Working knowledge of agriculture/natural resource management and related fields in the Southeast Asian region.
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The **Women's Health & Safe Motherhood Project-Partnerships Component**, a project of the Filipino people with funding support from the European Union (EU), is currently in need of a:

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For the development of Internet-based information network on women's health as part of the Women's Health Information Resource Center (WHIRC) in Butuan City

The persons we are looking for should be able to work with the network of women's organizations, NGOs, LGUs, health offices and other line agencies to develop a minimum data set for posting and sharing among network members. Specifically, she/he will:

- ☐ Design and implement information needs analysis of network members to identify minimum data set for IT networking, appropriate methods for data collection and data management at various levels (community, health facility, provincial and regional offices)
- ☐ Design data collection and data management procedures at various levels
- ☐ Propose strategy for installation of data collection and management procedures at various levels
- ☐ Liaise with IT Consultant for database programming and installing the IT network
- ☐ Provide needed capability enhancement in data management WHIRC network members

Qualifications:

- ☐ Extensive experience in research work, data collection and management specifically data set development, data collection methodologies, data organization, statistical and qualitative data analysis
- ☐ Knowledgeable and have worked on information systems and/or database development/operations preferably using MS Access
- ☐ Familiar with qualitative/community generated information/data; with social development indicators particularly on health and women's concerns
- ☐ Some experience in setting up IT network or network administration would be an advantage
- ☐ Willing to work full time for the duration of the consultancy (approximately six to eight weeks) most of which will be spent in Butuan City
- ☐ With at least a masters degree in relevant field

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- Graduate of B.S. Psychology /Behavioral Science
- With good written and oral communication
- Must have experience in all facet of HR functions
- A least 1 year work experience
- Capable of relating to individuals at all levels

Interested candidates are requested to mail their resumé with recent photo and transcript of records to:

The HRD Manager
Legacy Group of Companies
1438 LEGACY -SPPI Bldg., Quezon Ave.
cor. Sct. Borromeo
West Triangle, Quezon City

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Send your resume in MS Word or Text format by email to executive_search@platinumplans.com (or) all_aces@platinumplans.com fax it to 6363696 You may also call 634-6411 to 15 for a confidential discussion or text us at 0919-4513487. Alternatively, you can send your resume by postal mail with your latest photo or visit us at 1003 East Tektite Tower, Philippine Stock Exchange, Pasig.

CORPORATE LEGAL COUNSEL

Acts as the company lawyer on all legal matters; formulates and implements corporate legal strategies and acts as litigant for the company..

- A graduate of a reputable university with at least two (2) years litigation experience.
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- Preferably familiar with pre-need or insurance operations
- With above average oral and written communication skills

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GENERAL MANAGER ASSISTANT
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Qualification:
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- Industrial Engineer/Mechanical Engineer Graduate
- Computer literate
- Career-Oriented
- With good communication skills
- Experience is an advantage

Interested applicants may call Ms. Hazel Clarino/Mary Grace Aquino at tel. nos. (047) 2525395 to 96 or send their resumé and complete credentials to the above address.

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Must not be over 35 years old
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CUBAO
912-9008 to 11 (Aurora)

MAKATI
892-5578, 811-4361,
811-4370

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528-0213, 527-3342

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MARCH 27, 2002

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For the following departments :

- STORE OPERATIONS - Male / Female
- MARKETING - Female
- ACCOUNTING - Female , CPA
- HUMAN RESOURCES & DEV'T. – Female
  (Psychology or Behavioral Science graduate)

Maximum age of 35 yrs. old. Graduates of any 4 – 5 yr. college course from reputable schools, who can endure the pressures and long hours that come with our dynamic organization. Candidates must be innovative, result - oriented, well – organized with strong leadership qualities and excellent communication skills. Previous exposure to service – oriented company is an advantage.

GENERAL CLERICAL POSITIONS

For the following departments :

- H.R.D - Female ; RN's / Psychology or Behavioral Science graduates
- ACCOUNTING - Female , Accountancy graduates
- MARKETING - Female , Any 4-5 yr. college course
- M.I.S – Any 4 – 5 yr. Computer related course
  (Knowledge in Microsoft Windows NT & SQL Server)

Maximum age of 26 yrs. old. Graduates from reputable schools. Of above average intelligence & communication skills. Highly organized, responsible, people- oriented, computer literate & willing to work long hours. FRESH GRADUATES ARE WELCOME.

CASHIERS

Females, maximum 26 yrs. old . Graduates of any 4-5 yr. college course or have at least completed 2 yrs. of college . Pleasant personality and of impeccable moral background.

WAREHOUSE / RDU STAFF

Males, maximum 26 yrs. old Graduates of any 4- 5 yr. college course . Physically – able, smart & willing to work on a shifting schedule including graveyard . Computer literate, driving skills is an advantage.

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Males, maximum 26 yrs. old . Graduates of any 4 - 5 yr. college course or have at least completed 2 yrs. of college. Physically –able, smart & personable.

APPLICANTS MAY SUBMIT THEIR RESUME WITH RECENT PICTURE TO :
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SM SUPERMARKET HRD DEPARTMENT
118 E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave. Brgy. Ugong Pasig City
or email : MQ 5 @ SM Supermarket.com

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DATE : April 28 to May 8, 2002
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To register contact: USA Professionals, Inc.

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Phone: (630) 443-9900
Fax: (630) 443-1838
Email: usapro1@aol.com
Web: www.usaprofessionals.org
Please REGISTER NOW!

Philippine Office:
5th Flr, S & L Building
1500 Roxas Blvd., Ermita, Manila
Phone: (02) 523-7649 (Lilet)
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Class size is limited!

Incom Ltd., a multi-national company, seeks Telecom and IT engineers for work in overseas locations. Entry level positions are available for qualified candidates, as are select positions for experienced IT engineers and software specialists. English language ability is a must, Arabic and other Middle Eastern dialects are a plus.

Interested applicants may send a detailed CV indicating experience and expected salary with one passport size picture via email, mail or fax to:

Terry Gurubatham (Operations Director)
Incom Ltd.
6/F L.V Locsin Building, Ayala Avenue
corner Makati Avenue, Makati City
Fax No. 894 4377 E-mail: terryg@pc.jaring.my

SPEECH THERAPIST/ ABA THERAPIST

Trained ABA therapist at least one year experienced in working with children with autism. Knowledge in Sensory Integration or TEACCH preferred.
Required to coordinate IEP program with school teachers and conduct a home-based program of their 4-year old boy diagnosed with PDD-NOS.

Excellent remuneration and fringe benefits. Minimum 2-year contract. Interested parties can email to: **ehalili@netvigator.com** their details or fax to +852 2596 0024 attn: Elaine Halili or Ogie Navarete at 961-5202.

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is in urgent need of a qualified applicant who posses a strong personality and for those who have potential in the field.

THE POSITION:

Account Manager

Should be able to create & implement strategic plans for sales.

THE PERSON:

Male & Female, not over 30 years of age, with ECE background is an advantage but not required.

Apply in person & bring your curriculum vitaé and other supporting documents. (Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday - 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM only)

To the Director Sales & Marketing
Unit 202 7761 Doña Nena Mansion
Facundo St. cor. Santuico St.,
Brgy. Pio del Pilar, Makati City, Metro Manila.

WANTED

1. Food Technician
- Preferably single/female
- not over 35 years old
- with at least two (2) years experience in food industry

2. Cost Accountant
- preferably single/male
- not over 27 years old
- with at least two (2) years experience in manufacturing accounting

3. Marketing Supervisor
- preferably single/male
- not over 35 years old
- with at least two (2) years experience in computer marketing

4. Computer Technician
- preferably single/male
- not over 30 years old
- with at least two (2) years experience in computer service

Apply in person at 219 Wilson St., San Juan, Metro Manila, bring your bio-data with complete resumé or call 723-8916 for scheduled interview.

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PRODUCT DESIGNER

- at least 3 years experience in designing for houseware, giftware and garden accessories
- good at sketch drawing
- strong creative mind and sensitive to colors
- familiar with American and European market
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- fast, independent & able to work under pressure
- free lance artist are welcome to apply

Please mail your detailed resumé WITH EXPECTED SALARY to:

AMG
1533 3rd Street, Fable Subdivision,
Paco 1007 Manila
Or fax to: 562-7555, 561-0408

Walk-in applicants will not be entertained.

WANTED

FOOD TECHNOLOGISTS
- Male or Female
- BS Foodtech, Nutrition, Chemist
- 2-3 years work experience
- Computer literate
- Willing to be based in Cebu

SUPPLY DEVELOPMENT OFFICER
- Male, BS Agribusiness, Fisheries
- 1-2 years experience
- Good in oral and written communication
- Willing to be assigned in the Visayas Region
- Visayan/Cebuano speaking preferably

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Unit 2810, 28th Floor, Jollibee Plaza Bldg.,
Emerald Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City

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- Male or Female, not more than 40 years old
- Positive, hardworking, and trustworthy
- Highly personable and possess excellent supervisory skills
- Preferably an Agriculture Graduate with experience in vegetable/flower farming field
- Articulate in oral and written English

Qualified applicants are requested to send their resumé to:

#8 Apo St., Quezon City

"Walk-in Applicants will not be entertained"

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- opportunity for growth
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Rejoice in a joyful homecoming!

NIEVES MAIGUE JAMIR

widow of **Alberto MK Jamir**
Died on March 13, 2002

Her children **Belen, Claro & Zoila, Ramon, Celia, Sarah, Amante & Jel Caronongan**; grandchildren **Jay** and **Didi Jamir, Dream** and **Tim Earp, Sarj** and **Oscar Francisco, Pia** and **Ria Caronongan, AJ** and **Paui Jamir**; great granddaughter **Ally**; surviving brother, sisters & in-laws **Caridad Ruiz-Maigue, Fanny Tulao, Josefino & Olivia Cenizal, Ester Solis, Edgar & Emelina Ner-Maigue, Elisa K. Jamir, Evangelina J. Macalindong** and **Dr. Tomas Basa**; and other relatives request everyone to pray for her eternal life and peace.

Her remains lie at the Central Chapel, St. Jerome Emiliani Church Mortuary, Alabang Town Center, Muntinlupa City and will be transferred to the family residence in Binakayan, Kawit, Cavite on Sunday, March 17, 2002.

Cremation will be on Tuesday, 11:00 a.m. at Manila Memorial Park Crematory, Sucat, Parañaque City.

Message of Thanks

We, the family of the late

Atty. Glenn A. Nuyda

who joined our Lord and Creator
on March 6, 2002.

Sincerely convey our deepest gratitude and
appreciation to all who offered
Masses and prayers, sent flowers and
messages of sympathy,
visited and kept vigil,
attended the days of prayer and who,
in countless and immeasurable ways,
condoled with and comforted us
in our moment of grief.

MAY THE GOOD LORD BLESS
ALL OF YOU.

Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.

Matthew 10:39

In Loving Memory

on the First Death Anniversary of

DRA. VICTORIA CALOGNE

(nee: **Victoria S. Manalo** of Baguio City)

who died in the Grace of our Lord
on March 19, 2001

The family, relatives and friends
request the pious readers to
remember **Vicky** in their prayers.

MAXIMO L. ALICANTE

Died peacefully in the Grace of our Lord
on February 27, 2002
at the age of 93.

His remains lie in state at their residence,
Lambunao, Iloilo.

Interment will be on Saturday,
March 23, 2002 at Lambunao, Iloilo.

Message of Thanks

She came into our lives for a reason.
She was a Godsend. She was here for the purpose she needed to be.
Her work is done.
Thank you for being a part of her life.

We, the family of the late

Pacita Villanueva de los Santos

Who joined our Lord and Creator
on March 7, 2002

Sincerely convey our deepest gratitude and appreciation
to all who offered Masses and prayers,
sent flowers and messages of sympathy, gave donations,
visited and kept vigil, attended the funeral rites and days of prayer
and who, in countless and immeasurable ways,
condoled with us and comforted us in our moment of grief.

MAY THE GOOD LORD BLESS YOU ALL.

On the
occasion
of the
96th Birth Anniversary
of

DR. FEDERICO C. SUNTAY

Please accept our deepest gratitude for all of you who were with us and offered prayers and condolences during our time of loss. We ask those of you whose lives he touched with his generosity and undiscriminating charity, for your continued prayers.

Papa, we know that you always care. We know that your constant prayers have helped us overcome great difficulties. Please continue praying for us and for the success of the projects and programs that you and Mama have inspired, launched, or envisioned. We love you, PAPA, and we will keep on loving you and praying for you.

The family of the late

DON FEDERICO C. SUNTAY

of Hagonoy, Bulacan, Cavite, Mindoro, and Baguio City

Children **Nenita** and **Emil**; son-in-law **Jess**;
grandchildren, **Ian**, **Brian**, **Ana**, and **Rica**.

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

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OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS: ❶ Copy of Death Certificate ❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT • MESSAGE OF THANKS
DEATH ANNIVERSARY • REQUIEMS • FREE OBIT

FR. TIMOTHY FALIAO NGODCHO, S.J.

Peacefully joined our Creator on March 2, 2002 at the age of 48.

We, the bereaved family, parents **Rosita F. Ngodcho, Alfonso N. Ngodcho** (†); brothers and sisters and spouses **ABRAHAM** (†) and **Esther, JULIA** and **Berto, FRANCISCO** and **Josephine, BENITA** and **Alfonso, JEMY, ROSARIO** and **Lee, MILAGROS** and **John**; relatives and friends wish to express our sincere thanks and appreciation to those who condoled with us, sent messages of sympathy, offered prayers and services, rendered songs, gave donations in cash and in kind, and all those who, in countless ways, stood by us and comforted us during our time of bereavement.

Thank you very much and may the good Lord be more gracious unto you.

INVITATION TO BID

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***We reserve the right to accept or reject any offer / bid**

Republic of the Philippines
Department of the Interior and Local Government
NATIONAL POLICE COMMISSION
371 Sen. Gil J. Puyat Avenue, Makati City

MAR. 05, 2002

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND TO BID

The National Police Commission (Napolcom) is inviting prospective bidders to pre-qualify and bid on the items listed below:

Quantity	Items/Description
6 units	**COPYING MACHINES, U BIX** 28 copies per minute w/ built-in auto feeder
7 units	**DESKTOP COMPUTERS, IBM Netvista** Pentium IV 1.5 GHz Integrated 256 Kb 512 Cache 128 MB Memory expandable to 512 MB 40 GB Hard Disk 48X CD-ROM Drive SVGA 8 MB VRAM 10/100Mbps LAN Card 17" Colored Monitor Ports: 1X Parallel, 2x Serial, 2X USB, 1 X Mouse, 1X Keyboard 104 Keys US Keyboard w/ Pre-Load, MS Office XP (OEM)
2 units	**FACSIMILE MACHINES, PANASONIC** auto-cutter (10-sheet auto feed/thermal paper)
3 units	**FLOOR POLISHERS, WILSON** 13" heavy duty
1 unit	**VERTICAL CAMERA, DEGRA** Model 203 for printing, 20X24
1 unit	**ELECTRONIC TYPEWRITER, OLYMPIA** 15" carriage
1 piece	**LENS, NIKON** 35-300mm,, must be compatible w/ Nikon Camera F70 or F2AS
1 unit	**CAMERA, CANON** digital camera, powershot latest model
1 unit	**CAMERA, SONY** P53.3 megapixes (3X optical zoom)
1 unit	**AIRCON, KOPPEL** split type IKE 418N7C 2.0hp

To guarantee the faithful performance by the contractor of his undertaking, he shall post upon the signing of the contract a performance security in favor of the National Police Commission: cash, manager's check, cashier's check, bank draft/guarantee confirmedc by a local bank, surety bond, collable on demand, issued by the Government Service Insurance System or by surety or insurance companies duly accredited by the Office of the Insurance Commissioner, or a combination thereof, in accordance with the following schedule:

a. Cash, manager's check, bank draft- 5% of the total contract price.
b. Bank Guarantee- 10% of the total contract price.
c. Surety Bond- 30% of the total contract price

SCHEDULE OF BIDDING

1. Deadline of submission of pre-qualification requirements (see attached list) March 22, 2002 from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm
2. Deadline of submission of Bids March 29, 2002 from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm
3. Opening of Bids April 4, 2002, 2:00 pm Napolcom Conference Room

The Committee reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, waive any formality therein and to make an award to the bidders whose bids are the most advantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) **Dir. BERNARDO R. CALIBO**
Chairman
Prequalification Bid & Award Committee

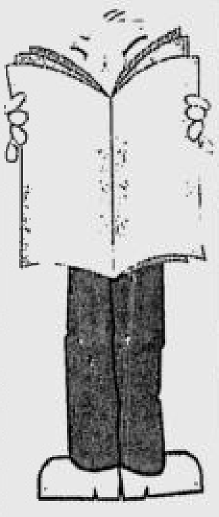
NOTE: All envelopes containing the pre-qualification requirements & bids should be duly signed by the bidders on the lip of the sealed portion & shall be submitted directly to Dir. Margarita R. Montemayor, Secretary, PBAC at the Installations & Logistics Service, 6th floor, Napolcom who shall, in the presence of the bidder, place the bid in the PBAC steel box.

DOCUMENTARY REQUIREMENTS for PREQUALIFICATION

1. Registration Papers
2. Audited Financial Statements (to reflect income & financial conditions) for the preceding three (3) years
3. List of five (5) major clients in Metro Manila
4. Brochure of the equipment/item offered

(PDI--Mar. 11 & 17, 2002)

Where you find the best.



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NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

In view of the various speculations going around the Management of Ausworld Development Corporation ("Ausworld") would like to clarify the following:

1. Greenlands Sports Resort, Inc. ("GSRI", formerly known as "Greenlands Golf and Sports Center, Inc."), the corporation owned and managed by Mr. John Martin, issued membership certificates in the Greenlands Sports Club (the "Club") **without prior authority** from the Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC"). In fact, the SEC ordered GSRI to stop and desist from further issuing club memberships (SEC MMOD Order dated 31 July 1997) and ordered GSRI to pay penalties for selling securities without prior license (SEC-CFO Order No. 154 dated 14 October 1997). The SEC further enjoined GSRI to immediately comply with the registration requirements under the Revised Securities Act. Despite having failed to comply with the law, GSRI continued to sell "club memberships".

2. On 27 November 2001, GSRI sold its assets (i.e., the facilities comprising the Club) to Ausworld. Ausworld, however, agreed to "take over the operation of the Greenlands Sports Resort effective 1 December 2000 and shall be responsible as of said date for all obligation(s) and responsibilities in the operation of the Club" and to "endeavor to continue to respect the policies of (Greenlands Sports Resort, Inc.) in the operation of the Club."

3. The existing holders of membership certificates remain members of GSRI. The Club itself does not have a juridical personality separate from GSRI, nor assets and facilities of its own. Despite this, Ausworld, out of its own good will and generosity, has allowed GSRI members the uninterrupted use of the facilities now owned by Ausworld.

4. Ausworld, or a subsidiary or affiliate thereof, is now in the process of preparing a registration statement for the purpose of securing from the SEC the proper license and authority to sell membership certificates in a new club that will use the facilities of Ausworld.

5. Once the SEC authorizes Ausworld, or a subsidiary or affiliate thereof, to sell membership certificates in the new club, the members of the GSRI Club who are in good standing will be granted certain options which will be announced later. For now, Ausworld shall maintain the status quo and allow GSRI members to use the facilities previously owned by GSRI.

6. GSRI members have apparently been fed with false information by various unauthorized sources. If you have any questions, please write or contact Ausworld directly at the addresses indicated below.

7. At present, Ausworld is in the process of determining who the actual members of GSRI are. Hence, all holders of GSRI membership certificates are enjoined to contact any of the following on or before APRIL 05, 2002.

Angeles Office: **Ms. Angel Cutiongco**
Ms. Emma Burgos
Telephone Nos.: (045) 892-3443; (045) 322-5289

Ortigas Office: **Mr. Arnold Bermejo**
Telephone Nos.: (02) 687-0595 to 96

E-mail Addresses: **ausworld@datelnet.net**
ausworld@netvigator.com
greenlnd@datelnet.net

Said members must likewise furnish Ausworld with a copy of their GSRI membership certificate, together with proof of payment of their membership fee.

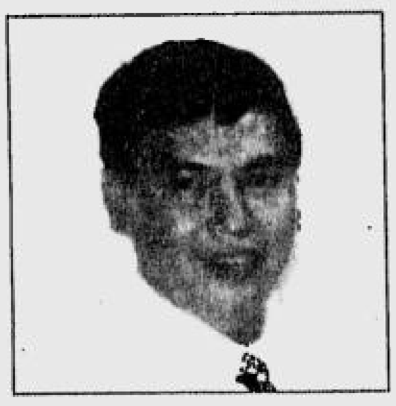
Ausworld reserves the right not to recognize GSRI members who fail to to register within the deadline set herein.

8. Rest assured that Ausworld is doing everything to comply with securities laws, rules and regulations and has no intention but to treat existing GSRI members fairly.

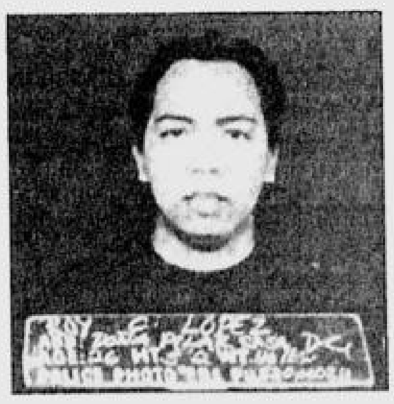
Thank you for your understanding and cooperation!

GREG MCDOUGALL
Chairman/President
AUSWORLD DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

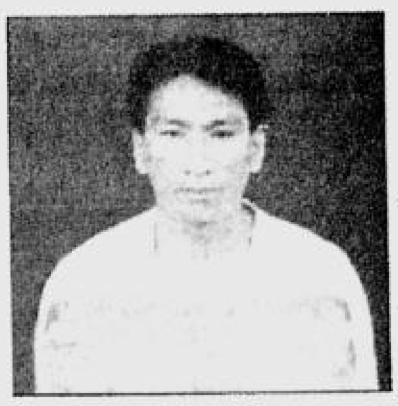
NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC



RONNIE SANZ



ROY LOPEZ



ANICETO ALCALDE

This is to inform the public that **RONNIE SANZ, ROY LOPEZ, ANICETO ALCALDE** whose pictures appear above are no longer employed or are in any way connected or affiliated with **LUX MARKETING INC.** or any of its branches. These persons have pending cases in the City Prosecution Office of Davao City. (I.S. No. 2001-8329 / 8330 / 8331 / 8332)

The public is warned of any misrepresentation made by these individuals with reference to **LUX MARKETING INC.**

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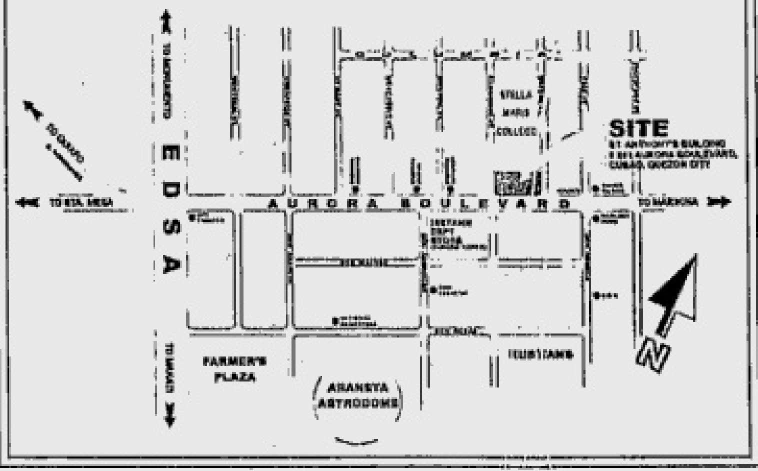

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
Bureau of International Health Cooperation

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

The Integrated Community Health Services Project, a foreign-assisted project of the Department of Health is in immediate need of:

One (1) Project Evaluation Officer IV, SG-22

(For assignment in the Province of Apayao)

Minimum Qualifications:

- Bachelor's Degree relevant to the job
- At least three (3) years of relevant experience in the implementation of Foreign-Assisted Projects
- Sixteen (16) hours of relevant training
- With excellent written and oral communication skills
- Proficient in the use of Excel, MS Word and Powerpoint
- At least 25-35 years old

All interested applicants may submit their application letter with comprehensive resumé and picture to Engr. BONIFACIO B. MAGTIBAY, Project Manager, Integrated Community Health Services Project, 4th Floor, Philippine Tuberculosis Society Building, Tayuman, Sta. Cruz, Manila. Deadline for submission is on March 22, 2002.

(Sgd.) **MA. VIRGINIA G. ALA, MD, MPB**
Manager, UPMD

(PDI--Mar. 16 & 17, 2002)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Agriculture
NATIONAL DAIRY AUTHORITY
NDA Bldg BAI Compound, Visayas Avenue
1100 Diliman, Quezon City, Philippines
Tel. (632) 926-0733 to 36 / 929-6756 / 929-0253 / 929-8749
Telefax: (632) 926-8847 / E-mail. buheynda@mail.com

INVITATION TO BID

The NATIONAL DAIRY AUTHORITY (NDA), a government-owned and controlled corporation attached to the Department of Agriculture (DA), invites interested bidders to submit sealed written tenders for:

500,000 pcs. RETORTABLE ALUMINUM MILK POUCH with the following specifications:

Size: 100 MM(w) x 170 MM(l) x 28 MM (BG)
Material Comp: PET 12/AL 7/NY 15/R-CP P60
With Print: Full Color (5-6 colors)

For purposes of clarifying issues re specifications, and terms & conditions, a prebid conference will be held on **March 18, 2002 at 10:00 A.M.** at the Shahani-Acosta Conference Room, NDA Building, BAI Compound, Visayas Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City.

Sealed bids in two (2) sets shall be received by the Pre-Bid and Awards Committee at the above address not later than **10:00 A.M.** on **March 25, 2002** and shall then be publicly opened immediately thereafter. All bids must be accompanied by a bid bond equivalent to 3% of the bid amount in the form of cash, cashier's/manager's check or GSIS guarantee bond issued in favor of NDA. All bidders are also required to submit together with the bid documents, an authenticated copy of their business license/registration, latest audited financial statements (Balance Sheet and Income Statements), latest income tax return (original to be shown for authentication purposes) and a copy of the organization's profile.

NDA reserves the right to reject any or all bids or parts thereof, to waive any information therein, or to accept such bids or to award any part thereof to any bidder/s whose bid/s is/are considered most advantageous to NDA.

(Sgd.) **SALVACION M. BULATAO**
Administrator

(PDI--Mar. 10 & 17, 2002)

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Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
Intramuros, Manila

NOTICE

EXTENSION OF THE GRACE PERIOD FOR THE FILING OF APPLICATIONS FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMIT PURSUANT TO RULE IV, PARAGRAPH 4 OF THE OMNIBUS GUIDELINES FOR THE ISSUANCE OF EMPLOYMENT PERMITS TO FOREIGN NATIONALS

Notice is hereby given to all concerned foreign nationals that the grace period for the filing of applications for Alien Employment Permits pursuant to Rule IV, paragraph IV of the Omnibus Guidelines for the Issuance of Employment Permits to Foreign Nationals which expired on 11 March 2002 is hereby extended for thirty (30) days or up to 10 April 2002.

All foreign nationals who have been working in the Philippines without an Alien Employment Permit shall have up to 10 April 2002 to file their applications for Alien Employment Permit without penalty.

Manila, Philippines, 15 March 2002.

(Sgd.) **PATRICIA A. STO. TOMAS**
Secretary

(PDI--Mar. 17, 2002)

Republic of the Philippines
PROCUREMENT SERVICE
Department of Budget and Management

INVITATION FOR BID

Loan No. : 1396-PHI(SF)
IFB No. : ICHSP-2002-001TE

1. The Government of the Philippines through the Department of Health has received a loan from the **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** towards the cost of the **INTEGRATED COMMUNITY HEALTH SERVICES PROJECT (ICHSP)**, Department of Health (DOH) and it is intended that part of the proceeds of this loan be applied to eligible payments under the contract for the supply and delivery of Telecommunications Equipment.
2. The Department of Health (DOH) desires to procure the Goods described and itemized herein through International Shopping in accordance with the applicable Guidelines of the ADB, and now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders from member countries of ADB for the supply and delivery of Telecommunications Equipment.

SCHEDULE OF BID ACTIVITIES:

ACTIVITIES	DATE	TIME
Issuance of Bid Documents	March 18, 2002	
Deadline of Issuance of *Bid Documents*	April 29, 2002	
Pre-Bid Conference	April 16, 2002	10:00 AM
Deadline of Submission of Bids	April 30, 2002	10:00 AM
Opening of Bids	April 30, 2002	10:00 AM

3. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information on the bid form and inspect the bidding documents at the **Office of the Procurement Service - Department of Budget and Management (PS-DBM), RR Road, Cristobal St., Paco, Manila, Philippines.**

   Complete set of bidding documents may be purchased by any interested eligible bidder at this address upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **FIVE THOUSAND PESOS (PhP5,000.00) in cash.** For foreign bidders, cost shall be **ONE HUNDRED FIFTY US DOLLAR (US$150) plus mailing fee of FIFTY US DOLLAR (US$50)** in the form of a bank draft issued separately to the PS-DBM.

   A pre-bidding conference will be held on the scheduled date at the **Conference Room of Procurement Service - Department of Budget and Management (PS-DBM), RR Road, Cristobal St., Paco, Manila, Philippines.**
4. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security in the amount of not less than two percent (2%) of Total Bid Price and must be delivered in accordance with the Instructions to Bidders on or before ***deadline of submission of bids***, and will be publicly opened at the above stated time and date at the **Conference Room of Procurement Service - Department of Budget and Management (PS-DBM), RR Road, Cristobal St., Paco, Manila, Philippines.**
5. The **Department of Health and Procurement Service - Department of Budget and Management** reserves the right to reject any or all bids without disclosing any reason to waive any minor defects or infirmities therein and to accept such bid as may be considered advantageous to DOH and to local health units.

(Sgd.) **ESTANISLAO C. GRANADOS, JR.**
Director, PS-DBM

(PDI - March 16 & 17, 2002)

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT
A. Francisco Gold Condominium II Edsa Corner Mapagmahal Street
Diliman, Quezon City

INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY

The Government of the Philippines has availed of a loan (NDF Credit No. 327) from the Nordic Development Fund (NDF) for the implementation of Part B, Institutional Capacity Building Program of the Mindanao Basic Urban Services Sector Project (the Project). As the Executing Agency of part B of the Project, the Department of the Interior and Local Government intends to engage the services of an international standard consulting firm (or joint venture) to assist its Project Development Office (PDO).

Areas of assistance required for Part B are: Component A - Project Management Support (PMS) and Component B - Subproject Preparation and Implementation Support (SPIS). The overall objective of the PMS is to assist DILG in terms of overall supervision, coordination, management and implementation of the project as well as the sector development in Mindanao. The SPIS shall support the Project Implementing Units (PIUs) under participating local government units for identifying, selecting, prioritizing investment areas, and preparing feasibility studies of selected sub-component.

Prequalification is open to firms and voluntary formed Joint Ventures from eligible member countries (Denmark, Finland, Sweden, Norway, Iceland) of Nordic Development Fund and the Republic of the Philippines. Eligible and suitably experienced firm wishing to offer their services may submit their letter of intent and prequalification documents properly labeled as "Prequalification Documents for Part B: The Institutional Capacity Building Program under the MBUSSP: (I) Component A - Project Management Support; and (II) Component B - Subproject Preparation and Implementation Support" to the following address not later than **15 April 2002** at 12:00 Noon.

THE CHAIRMAN
Prequalification, Bids and Award Committee (PBAC)
Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG)
10th Floor A. Francisco Gold Condominium II Building
EDSA Corner Mapagmahal Street
Diliman, Quezon City

Eligible applicants may obtain the Prequalification (PQ) Statement forms and Terms of Reference (TOR) from the Office of the Project Development Services (OPDS) at the above mentioned address. For more information, please contact telephone numbers 925-0388, 920-4312, and 929-9601.

(Sgd.) **HON. AGRIPINO S. MORGA**
Undersecretary for Administration and PBAC Chairman

(PDI - March 17 & 24, 2002)

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NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Notice is hereby given that the **Official Receipt with series 6751-6800** duly registered under the name of MASTER FOODS PHILIPPINES, INC. were lost on February 9, 2002 and are now deemed void.

Customers, vendors, business partners and the public are hereby warranted not to accept the above mentioned official receipts from any party or entity.

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
PRESIDENTIAL COMMISSION ON GOOD GOVERNMENT
REGIONAL OFFICE NO. 8
TACLOBAN CITY

INVITATION TO BID

The Presidential Commission on Good Government (PCGG) invites interested parties to participate in the sealed bidding for the lease of the ground floor of the People's Center and Library as venue for "Summer and Fiesta Bazaar and Trade Fair" from **May 15, 2002** to **July 15, 2002**, located at Real Street, Tacloban City.

The bidding guidelines will be available from PCGG Office, Asset Management Department, 3rd floor, IRC building, 82 EDSA, Mandaluyong City and at the PCGG Regional Office, Nipa Hut, Jones Street, Tacloban City, starting **March 18, 2002**. For inquiries, please contact Darwin Altea Tel. No. 7260034 and Renor Dauag Tel. No. (053) 3213413.

Bids will be received, opened and tabulated after their submission at 10:00AM on **April 2, 2002** in the presence of the bidders at the PCGG Office, Asset Management Department, 3rd Floor, IRC Building, 82 EDSA, Mandaluyong City.

(Sgd.) **RENOR O. DAUAG**
Officer-In-Charge
PCGG, Region 8

(PDI--Mar 15, 16, 17, 2002)

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INVITATION TO BID FOR DISPOSAL OF COMPUTERS & EQUIPMENT

The Pilipinas Makro, Inc. (PMI) is inviting interested parties/bidders to participate in the bidding of the following:

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3. 8 units of Personal Computers-Model. 486
4. Upright Aircon-Model: Kent de luxe
5. 3 units of Crystal Tips Ice Maker (Model: 110 SAT Phils. and Crystal Tips Ice System) and 1 unit of Ice Flaker Machine (for freshness preservation of seafoods)
6. Various Scrap Metals/Materials/Equipments
7. 1 unit of Meat Grinder-Type YC 90-S4 60 Hz 1,550 RPM

Bid documents can be secured at the PMI-Administration Department at the above address and contact nos.. Bid shall be submitted in a sealed envelope at the Administration Department on or before March 25, 2002; 12:00 Noon. Award will be based on the highest bid received.

The actual inspection of the items can be made from March 18 to 24, 2002 in coordination with the PMI-ALC Department at the respective stores and PMI-IT Department (at Head Office for computer related equipments) where above items are located.

Finally, PMI reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason/s, waive any defect or informality contained therein, and accept the bid it deems most advantageous to the PMI. PMI further assumes no obligation whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidders for expenses or losses that may be incurred in connection with the said bidding.

(Sgd.) **NAOMI T. KHO**
Administration Officer

(PDI - March 17, 2002)

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LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that t estate of the late Wilfredo Villegas has been extra-judicia settled by his heirs as per doc page 1 book VIII series of 20 bef. not. pub. Eddie Fernandez the city of Mandaluyong (PI Mar. 3,10, & 17 2002)

Notice is hereby given that t estate of the late GUILLERN M. SERVANO JR. has be extra-judicially settled amo his heirs under Doc. No. 3 Page No. 75, Book No. (Series of 2002, before Nota Public, Rorencio Macaisp Pasig City *(PDI-March 3, 10 17, 2002)*

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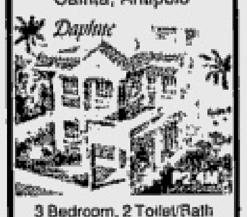

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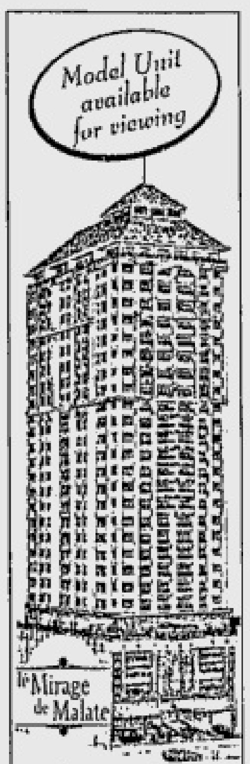
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SARAH MEIER

The girl to (S)watch out for

Playtime on page C2

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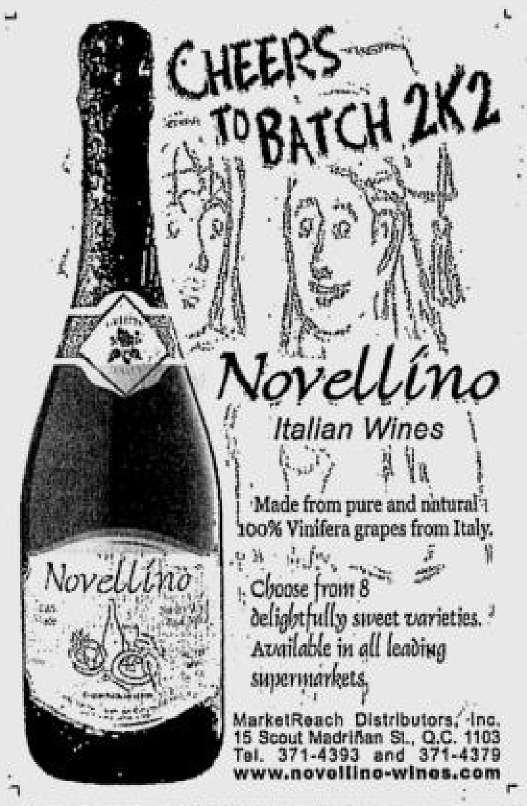

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MARKS & SPENCER

The girl to (S)watch out for

PLAYTIME

By the staff

WHEN Sarah Meier is asked what book she has read recently, she pulls out Kierkergaard's "Provocations," which she says was given to her by her boyfriend, Bench image model Borgy Manotoc, while they were in Boracay. Hardly the stuff you read when you're out on a romantic beach with a gorgeous guy but, hey, these are kids with smarts, not just looks.

In an interview a couple of years ago, Manotoc was asked to describe his ideal girl and he said he wanted someone tall, older than him, independent, outspoken and well-traveled. And who would fit the bill perfectly but Sarah stunning and tall?

Of course, Sarah is known for so much more than just as Borgy's girlfriend. The 20-year-old, who is half Filipino-half Swiss (her mom is former model Elektrika) is an MTV veejay, a fashion and advertising model and a youth icon of sorts. And tomorrow evening, at a private invitational affair at Venezia conceptualized by Tessa Prieto-Valdes and directed by Rowell Santiago, she will be launched formally as the new Swatch babe.

It's a role that she takes seriously. In fact, from out of her bag, Sarah also whisks out the new Swatch catalog when the watch she is wearing during Playtime catches the staff's attention.

Gangly and sporty Sarah gets under your skin with her affectless aplomb. She has this romantic view that there's something in everybody to love, if you look hard enough. She's pleasant, eloquent and outspoken. And, most endearing, she's a giggler.

One minute she sounds tired, talking about nights with only three hours of shut-eye, then her free-spirited self suddenly shines as she talks about a forthcoming trip to Jamaica and San Diego with her beau.

Yes, there are many colors and sides to Sarah—and in that way, she's like the watch she endorses.

It's so hard to get a booking with you. How hectic is your schedule?

I think the reason it's so difficult is, MTV really has no schedule. Our schedule depends on the artists' availability, the interviewees and what Singapore needs.

Do you know what's going to happen on Monday when the new line for Swatch is launched?

Honestly, no, (Laughter) but I think 2002 is the 40th year anniversary of James Bond and they are releasing the 20th James Bond movie. Swatch got the rights along with the company that produced "James Bond," so they decided to come up with a special edition.

So are you going to be a Bond girl?

If I'm worthy (Laughter)...For that night alone? I think so...

What will you be doing with Swatch? What does your contract entail?

With regards to Swatch, I mean the work isn't really work for me 'cause, of course, they expect me to wear a Swatch, but I've been wearing Swatch since I was 3 years old, so it's not something that I feel obligated to do. It's not a pressure because I really do wear Swatch watches. My brother wears Swatch watches also. You take a look at my family photo albums, I've been wearing Swatch my entire life.

What do you like most about Borgy?

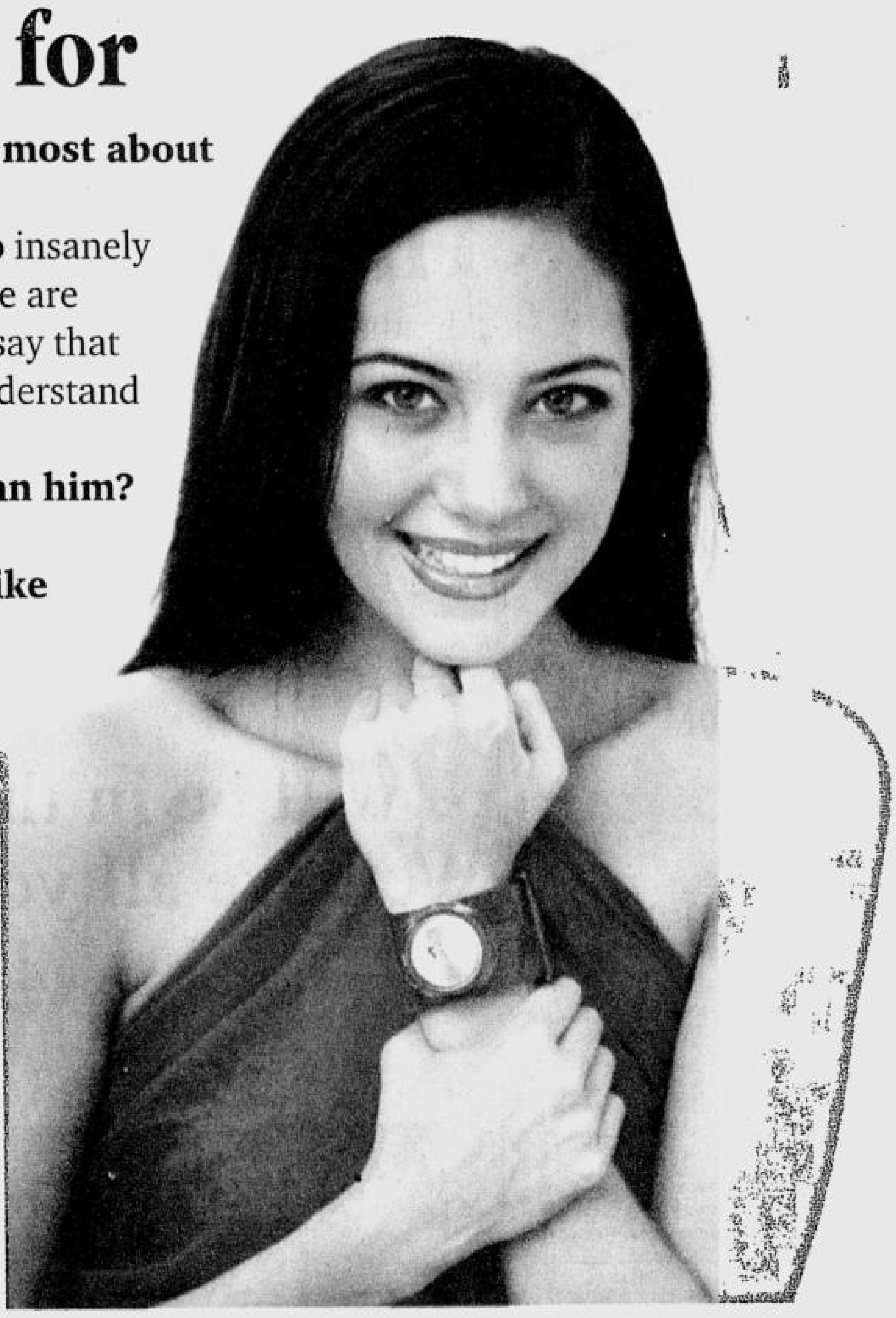
We just get along so insanely well, we click. There are things that we can say that nobody else can understand but us.

Are you taller than him?

No, I'm not.

What don't you like about him?

He always has something to say about everything



Now you're paid to do it...

Exactly. And I've been given free watches, so it's cool.

So, you get to choose the Swatch you will model, or they choose for you?

Well, when it comes to campaigns, there are certain items they want to push. But I can also go with the ones I like.

So does the agency still pressure you to lose weight or it's okay because you look fine right now?

I don't spend so much time modeling now because I'm focusing more on MTV, and they don't really say anything. It's MTV that says, "Be healthy, look right, we don't want you to appear too skinny on screen." There was actually feedback at the beginning; a lot of viewers were commenting that I was so thin. So they told me, "Just feel comfortable with what you're eating." So I'm eating as much as I like and they are happy with that.

You mean, you eat anything?

I do. A lot of people would say, "You always say that but it's *bola*." Really, you can ask my friends. If you look at my mom...she's so skinny...

But my dad is really skinny. I mean, I wear my dad's pants from the '70s, you know...but they're too small for me.

Do you workout?

No, but I should...

How big is the influence of Joey Espino on you?

Oh, major. I think, like any manager-talent situation, there's just that level of trust and, you know, friendship that you have to have outside of the professional relationship. Joey has maintained that ever since. He's been an inspiration with regards to, you know, just the everyday things in life. He's there to ask if I'm happy, how are things with my brother, is my brother doing okay... things like that. He's been a major inspiration to me with my relationship with God. A lot of kids really take God for granted. Every single time, he would touch me and remind me, "Hey, don't forget to pray, don't forget to pray." Even though it's not a lecture, he keeps it at the back of our heads. It's like before every fashion show, we pray; when we have agency meetings, we go to Mass afterward, things like that, to keep us grounded, and it works.

Is he over-protective?

No, he's very, very fair. He's not partial at all. There were certain times he wanted really to dictate to us what really would make us better.

Who negotiates your rate?

Joey does.

Have you made your second million since the last time I saw you?

(Giggles) Yeah.

Where did you put that second million?

(Giggles) It's with the travel agencies, with the telecommunications company... still collectible with the agency, I believe.

I think part of your appeal is that you represent a young generation of women who are street-smart and don't take themselves seriously, as opposed to the previous generation of girls from rich families who were very correct. . .

I can be like that, if it's called for, but sometimes it's just too much of a drag when people are so caught up in thinking about their appearance and how they come across to other people. They take themselves for granted and end up not enjoying life or neglecting it completely. I'd rather have fun and not step on anybody's toes and just live life that way instead of always trying not to offend people and say the right thing all the time.

Your mom says that you are too compassionate...

Yeah, everybody has told me that... Yeah, I think so, to the point that sometimes I feel like I'm being taken advantage of. But I don't know if you call that learning your lesson—I never learned my lesson—because it happens over and over again, and some people think it's my fault, but other people admire me for that. I try my best, I really do, but you can't please everybody. With regards to friendship, I tend to be very optimistic and try to see the good side of things.

And that's very good...

Sometimes, but in the business world, not so good. When people give me a budget, I would say "Yeah, okay," but then Joey would say, "No" (Laughter) and that's why I have Joey. If I didn't have Joey I would be doing everything for free. My mom and Joey actually keep me in check.

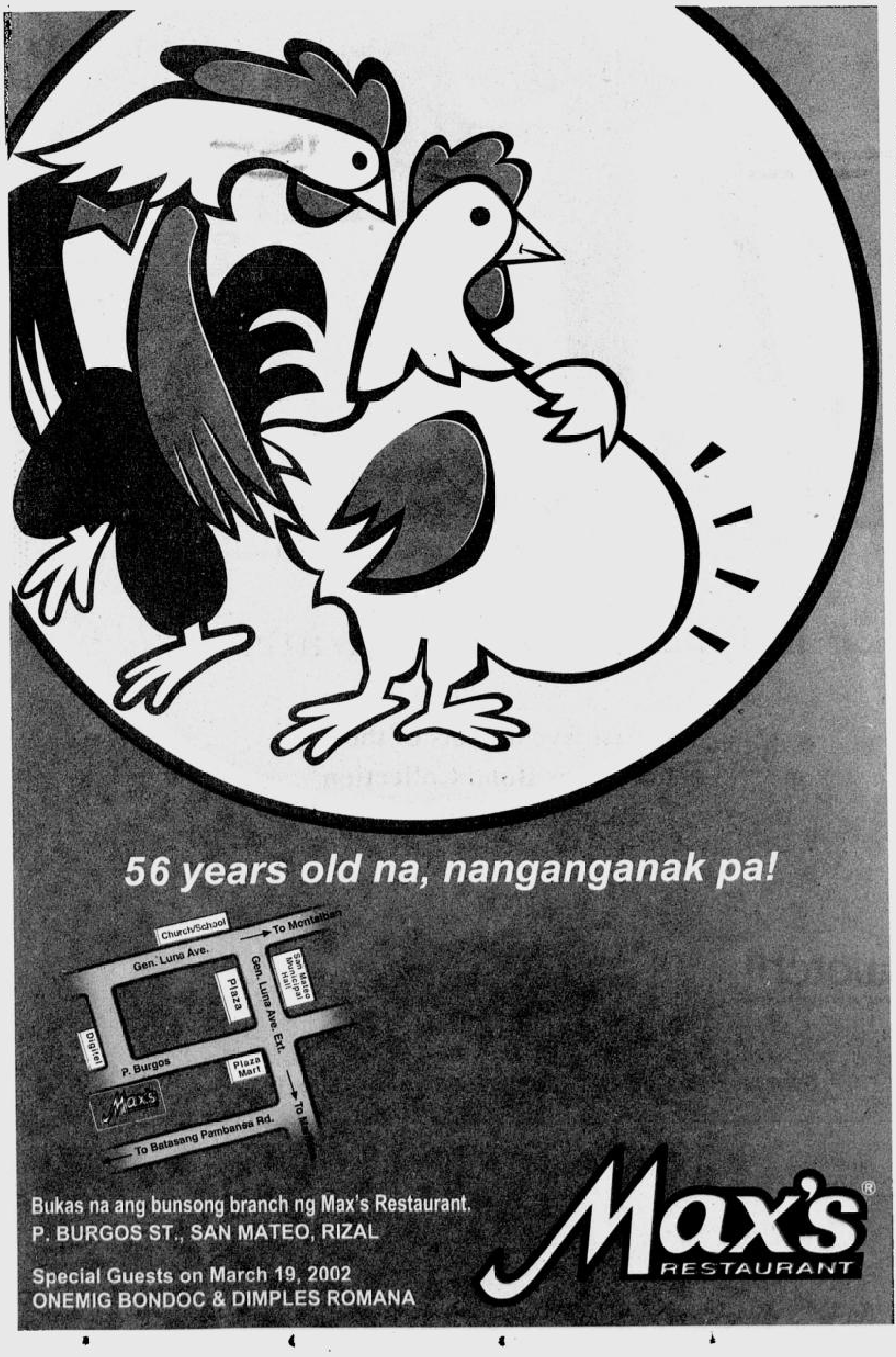
What did your mom tell you when you were just new in the business?

Be careful what you say or do. She didn't really dictate much when I came to modeling. She let me learn on my own. She was always keeping a watchful eye whenever she felt that I was beginning to get taken advantage of. She'll step in and say something, but other than that, she never watched fashion shows. She never intrudes into any of my endorsements.

The last time we spoke to you, you said that you had a passion for writing but you hadn't been given the chance to really develop your skills. If you have time to write, what would you write about?

I have no idea... my views. I don't have a journal. I have had a very bad experience in keeping journals. They always seem to land in the wrong hands. So I decided to stop... (Laughter)

THE GIRL/ p.C4



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Tita Dulce

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A few months ago, an ex-boyfriend called me and apologized for breaking my heart, blaming it on his immaturity then.

Since then, we've been keeping in touch by phone and letters. He told me how unhappy he is and that he is willing to leave his wife and kids to join me here.

I have loved this guy all my life. I lost him but found him again. Isn't it right that I grab this chance for us to be together again?

EVE

But at what price—at the cost of breaking your homes and sundering the hearts of your spouses and children?

I suppose your spouses will come to terms with it because, after all, while they might have fallen in love with you, they did have a choice of not succumbing to that love and, later, of not marrying you. Making a choice means taking a risk, and taking a risk means accepting a loss when it comes.

But we can't say the same for your children. Children choose neither to be born nor the people they'll be born to. And, unless they grow up abused, they grow up loving and trusting their parents not because they choose to, but simply because they do. It never enters their mind that they could feel—or choose to feel—otherwise. They don't have a choice in this matter, only you do. And should you and your ex-boyfriend choose to follow your hearts, your spouses might feel that they loved and lost, but your children would certainly feel that they were betrayed.

Your heart was broken because your ex-boyfriend betrayed you. Would he and you inflict the same pains of betrayal on your children? If you hardly survived it, their young hearts and minds will certainly fare much worse.

But I guess even that would still be worth it if it were the same old love you feel for him. I'm afraid, though, that it is not.

Both of you cried your hearts out during that talk. But I'd bet that you cried not only because recalling the pain hurt, but also because both of you know that what you talked about was an irretrievable past.

When the two of you reunite, it would not be to continue a love that has ended; it would be to start a new one. Considering the broken homes and hearts that the new relationship would leave in its wake, it would be a very costly one. It would be a very shaky one, too, because after nostalgia and romance wear off, you'll realize that you are no longer the same persons you knew 12 years ago and you'll wonder if getting each other back was worth it at all.

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The girl to (S)watch out for

From page C2

Even in Singapore, people have been offering me to write but I can't even find time to sit at home and catch up with my brother, which is something that I used to do regularly. He's my best friend in the whole world.

How old is your brother?

He's 13 but wise beyond his years.

You still live at home with your dad and your brother?

Yes.

How's the relationship between your mom and your dad?

You know what, I can't find the words to describe it, but here, they are separated. They occasionally live under the same roof and have civil conversations, but other times they can go on months without talking.

How long did you live with your dad?

Majority of the time after the separation. But I think there was only a year or two that I stayed with my mom, or it would be alternating weeks, things like that.

To whom are you closer, your mom or your dad?

It's different, I mean, very, very different. The kind of relationship I have with my dad is, like, I respect him... No, it's not just a matter of respect. It's just that I listen to him more as an adult giving me advice. With my mom, she's my friend, you know, I make *tsismis*, I make *kwento* from day to day, that's how I am with my mom...

What was your childhood like?

Crazy. It was really crazy 'coz my dad a lot of the time was out of the country because of his job, so every time he came back, he always made it a point that the two months of my summer vacation, we'd go to a new country every year, so I was travelling a lot. I got to see a lot of the world. I just feel bad because I was too young to appreciate it, you know, not as much as I would now. Pictures are all I have. But it was fun. I was their only child for seven years, so I got a lot of attention.

What do you think is your best feature?

I don't know. (Giggles) My height . . . (Giggles) It's both an advantage and disadvantage . . .

What did your dad do?

He was part of a retail firm that dealt with brands like Puma, just basically travelling around Asia, or he'd go to Germany and Switzerland for seminars, conferences ...

What's a day like for someone like you?

You know, MTV schedule changes... I can have a shooting and be at the studio like 8 a.m. and work for an hour to six. Or I can work in the morning and be back again at night to cover some events. It really depends, but generally, there's MTV and I usually have some modeling things to go to. Other times, I'll fly to Singapore on a Monday and come back on a Wednesday, like today.

You don't even get to do some shopping in Singapore?

No, not at all. Well, Duty Free in the airport when I'm early (Laughter)...that's it.

Your style is pretty laid-back. We always see you in sneakers. Is it because you're sick of dressing up for fashion shows?

That's a big part of it. It's like I'm always running from one shoot to another. Comfort is always key. I remember there was one time I was wearing a turtleneck and 2-inch high boots. After the first event, I was really uncomfortable, I was not smiling when I was doing my job, which is something I usually don't have to make an effort to do, so I told myself, never again...

But when you have to go dressed up, like for a formal dinner...

I would go all out. I love dressing up.

Who would you wear?

Well, if I could afford it, Issey Miyake and, locally, it's Rajo (Laurel).

Have there been show-biz offers?

I made it a point a long time ago—and it has come across very clearly to everybody in show biz—that I don't want to get involved. So the offers that have come are less extreme—you know, more independent movies or music video directors making movie debuts and wanting to use me. So it's nothing blatantly show biz, you know, like hosting a noontime show or doing a *tele*-series or a full-length movie.

Have you done music videos?

I haven't yet, I still have to. That one time, I was supposed to do an indie film that they were going to send to, I think, France but because of my MTV schedule, I couldn't. It's really something I wanted to do.

For how long are you under contract with MTV.

It's a yearly contract. There are four of us. There are two new VJs, Derek and Ana, so Pinoys are dominating MTV.

Why do you think? Don't they need different looks?

They do need different looks, but I think Filipinos in general can provide that, you know...

They seem to be going for mestizas.

I have asked them about that... Do they have to be Eurasian or anything? You know what they told me was that it just so happened that the ones that are presented who have the MTV factor are always of mixed race. They are actually looking for somebody who's pure Filipino or pure Malaysian or pure Indonesian, but a lot of them either don't have the confidence or not articulate enough...which is a big factor. You're going to how many countries around Asia, you have to be precise in what you're saying. If you don't know how to pronounce certain words, it will get in the way when you're interviewing artists, which is my problem when I speak Tagalog.

Is MTV scripted?

Yeah, for the shows we do on promo. For the ones we do in the studio—just basically presenting videos—they give us bullets, just basically standard information about the artists on the video you're about to present. You put it in your own words.

Did you grow up here?

I grew up in Hong Kong. I moved here when I was 11.

You went to high school here...

Yeah.

Have you had any college education?

I went to a college here for about not even a semester...

Where?

Ateneo, but it didn't last...

Why? Were you too busy?

No, I wasn't into modeling at that time. I don't know, maybe I went at the wrong time, and maybe I came across the wrong people. There were 13 of us from IS who went to Ateneo that year, and at the end of the first semester, there were only two left. So, it might have been culture shock.

What was your course?

Mass Comm. There were classes I"d be in where there were people from well-off families who really went to Ateneo because of the school's reputation, and they didn't like me because I was from IS (International School)... And there were kids from the provinces. Like, I completely took for granted just how hard some people tried to be there, and I was complaining to my friend, saying I hate it here, and my seatmate started crying, because it was her dream her whole life to come to Manila and go to Ateneo and she had to work really hard to get a scholarship. After she explained that to me, after I saw her crying, I knew that I had to do something... about me taking a slot in Ateneo that could have been somebody else's.

JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

Have you modeled in Hong Kong since you left?

Yeah, I went back to model in Hong Kong. The money is good. Competition is tough.

What is the seamy side of the fashion world?

It's really scary, especially in countries where they take it really seriously. Hong Kong, for example, which is why I didn't stay there very long. Because we met girls at fashion shows, we'd hang out, we'd have fun. Okay, fine. "Where are we going?" "To the other room..." "No, I'm going home." I was really naïve at that time and didn't even know what they were doing...

Were they doing drugs?

Yeah, they were doing drugs, cocaine... That experience, that one night I think really scared me. It was an eye-opener. It made me realize what went on 'cause before that it was just stories. ...

Are you saying that here there's no "other room"?

In the modeling world here, I haven't experienced it. Not at all. Hong Kong is really, wow! Which is why when people ask me, why don't you go to New York... You know, if Hong Kong is like that, what more New York? But really, all the myths are true. There are some very anorexic girls, bulimic girls, girls that really live for modeling. I don't want to be like that. Modeling here is not really on a grand scale. It's just some

THE GIRL/ p.C6

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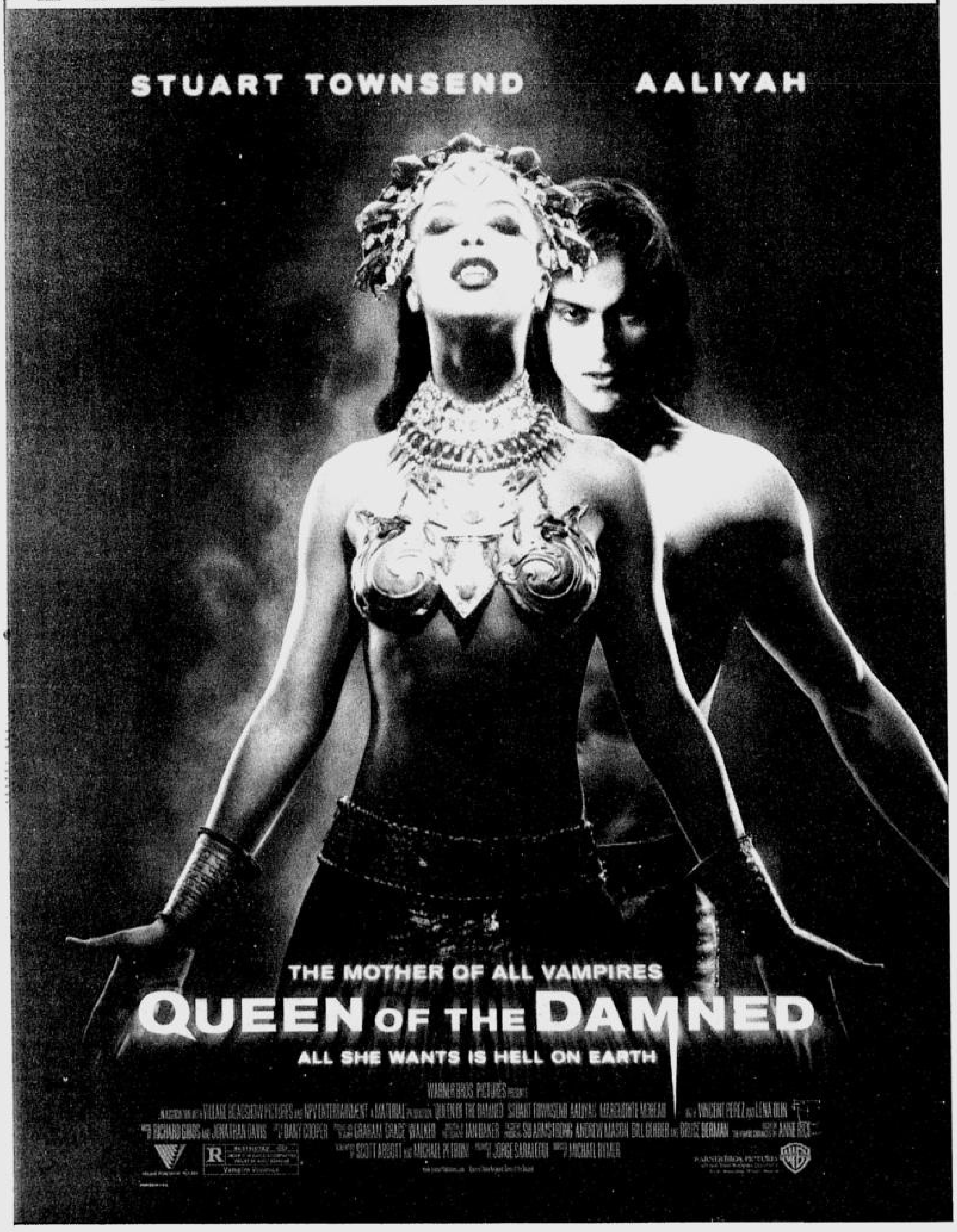
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GMA
WHERE YOU BELONG

The girl to (S)watch out for

From page C4

thing you do on the side but take really seriously.

How do you ward off unwanted attention from men?

It doesn't really happen, or I guess I haven't been put in that situation. I'm always surrounded by really big groups of friends, so nothing obscene. Or people would come up and say, "You wanna dance?" And I go, "No, no thank you..."

So, how do you and Borgy maintain a long distance relationship?

Well, it's actually not that hard. We talk almost every day. We get along very well, so there's not that much drama... nice, steady, peaceful...

How much is your phone bill?

Pretty high...(Laughter)

How high? Is that where your earnings go?

Yeah, basically, a lot of it. But we really take turns in paying, so that's good.

But you only met him like a month before he went to the United States. How can you have that kind of a relationship after a whirlwind courtship?

I don't know, we get along very well...we actually do...

How did you meet him? Did you have a boyfriend then?

Yeah, I did.

And you dumped the boyfriend for Borgy?

Basically. The public actually isn't supposed to know that we're together, but, you know, everybody does. I don't know why, we're supposed to hide it... (Laughter)

Who advised you to do so? MTV?

No, MTV really doesn't care. Certain people who are looking after our best interest.

Have you met Imee Marcos (Borgy's mom)?

Yeah, she's cool. She's a cool chick, definitely. Spur of the moment thing, we decided to go to Bambang. I'd never been there before.

Bambang? *Ukay-ukay*, you mean?

Yeah, for the old clothes. We were having dinner the night before and we were talking about vintage clothes, and she said, "Tomorrow we'll go to Bambang."

Did you buy anything?

Yeah, we did. I found this Hooters' shirt from Florida that I bought for my best friend because she's very well endowed. Borgy bought a bunch of shirts. We bought, we bought.

When did you first model?

I was 13. My very first job was an editorial for Mega. At 13, I was 5'7½".

> 'The work isn't really work for me 'cause, of course, they expect me to wear a Swatch, but I've been wearing Swatch since I was 3 years old, so it's not something that I feel obligated to do . . . Because I really do wear Swatch watches, my brother wears Swatch watches also. You take a look at my family photo albums, I've been wearing Swatch my entire life'

How tall are you now?

5'11¾". (Laughter)

Have you thought of joining a beauty contest?

No.

Surely, you've been asked?

Oh yeah, many, many, many times. I don't see the point, really, I don't. I have nothing against beauty pageants. I have friends like Nina Ricci Alagao, but I don't need to go up there and be pretty. (Laughter)

Some girls go for the prizes...

I understand that, but it's like, why reward people for something that they haven't accomplished on their own? Beauty is in the genes, or sometimes plastic surgery. It's nothing that they have worked for.

Did you really used to donate your paychecks to charity?

Yes. The Chosen Children and then there is this small Catholic family in Baguio, a pastor and his orphans.

Is that the natural color of your eyes? What color is that?

Yeah. I don't know. It changes, depending on my mood.

Tonight it's a little bit smoky. It really depends on your mood? Predictable *ka pala*. So, can Borgy tell what you're in the mood for? (Laughter)

I don't know. (Giggles)

What color are they when you're feeling passionate?

Really, I don't look at the mirror. (Laughter)

Or when you're angry? Have you ever gotten really angry? What are you like when you're really mad, really upset about something?

When I'm mad, I find that I'm much more eloquent. (Laughter) For some strange reason I don't know, I don't have to resort to profanity. Everything just comes flowing out, and I'm much more passionate...

What would make you really mad? People are always saying you're so pleasant...

It's another thing about my mom saying that I'm too compassionate and forgiving, it's just that... I have this little romantic thing that there is something about every single person in the world that you can love. If I find somebody that I don't like, that I don't get along with, I look at what other people see. Like, there's a certain girl that I don't really get along with and I hate her, I look at her boyfriend and I think, he can find something to love about her, maybe I should look for that.

Do you see yourself in the future as a politician's wife, being that you're in a relationship with a scion of a political family?

He is probably not gonna get into politics...

You think so?

I'm pretty sure. He's too much of an artist and a sportsman, I think, to get into politics.

Has the Marcos connection ever bothered you?

Not at all. People ask me that all the time: "Don't you care?" Okay, fine, I was alive at that time but I wasn't here, I was not an active part of it. I know, it may be unfair but I wasn't directly affected by it. And I don't think that I should take that against him (Borgy) of all people, and he wasn't here either...

He has nothing to do with it...

Absolutely, nothing to do with it.

But do you think he's the kind of person who will try to make things right at that point in time when he can make a difference for the country. For example, returning the Marcos wealth?

He doesn't know anything. You'd be surprised, I know more about it...

Do you get to discuss these things with him?

On certain occasions that we have, I have actually revealed to him much more than what he already knew. And what I told him shocked the hell out of him.

He was probably isolated from everything...

Yes, he was very isolated... He says when people ask him about his stand on this whole thing, all he says is he wasn't there and he only knows what people have told him. He hears both sides. He just takes all of that into consideration, but he still doesn't know what to do about it.

When you hear people say negative things about his family, how does that affect you?

I'd be lying if I say that it doesn't affect me. I don't know why it hurts sometimes.

Do you get defensive?

No, I have no right. It just hurts because these are people that I know. These are people I have dinner with, you know. I really don't know what to do, but when you see things in the newspaper, wow, it can ruin your day.

What do you like most about Borgy?

We just get along so insanely well, we click. There are things that we can say that nobody else can understand but us.

Are you taller than him?

No, I'm not.

What don't you like about him?

He always has something to say about everything. Like in an argument, he always has a comeback. I guess that's the politician in him, or the lawyer in him, or whatever in him, but he always has something to say.

Do you talk about marriage?

He's just 18 and I'm 20.

You're just having fun right now.

Yeah.

It seems to be an intense relationship, though, with phone bills like yours.

Well, there is so much more to it than the relationship itself. He's the one that I confide in. He's my best friend. Romance and everything aside, I would still call him, he would still call me...

How did you meet?

Work. Fashion show.

We interviewed Borgy about three years ago, and we asked him to describe his ideal girl, and he said someone older, someone who has probably traveled a lot, and now that we think about it he was describing you... (Laughter)

(Giggles) It was funny. I met his mom actually way before I met him and some members of his family. His Tito Bong would tell me, "You should meet Borgy... you'll get along." And I was with somebody else at that time, and they would say it in front of his face. That was always an issue between my ex-boyfriend and me. My ex would say, "You're never gonna meet Borgy. I'm never gonna let you meet Borgy." And then we saw Borgy one time in the mall when he first got back, my ex-boyfriend dragged me straight across the mall and didn't let me even look at him.

You also said before that you wouldn't go for a younger man.

I've said a lot of times, I would never go out with him... now I am the biggest hypocrite there is, definitely.

At least he knew he was gonna go for an older woman.

That's just it—he's not your average 18-year-old. And I think he knows that, which is why he says that (he'll go with) an older woman because he knows that there are things he thinks about that his classmates don't.

How is he with regards to your fashion career?

He keeps pushing me. He really wants me to exhaust all possibilities right now.

Have you met his grandmother (Imelda Marcos)?

I met her before him.

What did you think of her?

She's one heck of a lady. She is character with a capital C. She is, wow, I was completely speechless... She asked me my shoe size, actually. (Laughter)

What's your shoe size?

Ten.

What do you think is your best feature?

I don't know (Giggles). My height... (Giggles) It's both an advantage and disadvantage...

How tall is your dad?

6'4".

You're mom?

5'8".

You're brother must be really tall, too.

He's gonna be very tall. He's only 13.

How did you learn Tagalog?

Noong bata ako, sa yaya ko. Before, *medyo barok-barok pa, pero ngayon,* because of MTV, *kasi kailangan din marunong mag-Tagalog kapag may mga lo*cal artists *na hindi kumportable* with English...

Si Borgy ba marunong mag-Tagalog?

No. KC (Montero) speaks better Tagalog than Borgy. (Laughter) But Borgy understands Tagalog.

So your *yaya* really helped you with your Tagalog?

Yeah, except she's from Leyte, so my accent came out, you know... more Visayan.

How many Swatch watches do you have?

I don't even know, maybe, like, 15.

What's your favorite?

The one with a clear strap, the ultra-thin, Swatch skin because, you know, I have a tendency to dress really sporty, so it goes well with a lot of my clothes.

Are the Swatch billboards out now?

Megamall, Robinsons Galleria and Glorietta...

In the billboards you were wearing bracelets also...

Yeah, there are bracelets as well, the Bijou accessories line.

The watch you're wearing now, is the entire thing a Swatch?

Yeah. This is a new one actually.

You know that it's so trendy now to have diamonds on watches. Do they have a version of that?

It's not that style in particular, but you'll find things that are similar to it. Swatch is not the type that will ride along with a fad. It's actually almost a classic... Inno Sotto's favorite watch actually is a pretty nice watch. It's a black leather skin Swatch.

Do they also have watches with changeable straps or bracelets?

This one is a pop Swatch, you can change the strap. I have a lot of pop Swatches... I'm really eclectic, I guess, when it comes to my taste. I'm very versatile. I can be a lady one day, sporty the next. Other lines of watches all have a certain look, a standard look for each and everyone. Swatch has more room for freedom of expression.

PHOTOS ON THIS PAGE BY
PATRICK UY
PICTORIAL DIRECTION BY
ANTONIO SALAC SANTOS

At last, Greenhills Theater gets a face-lift

By Cora Llamas
Contributor

The refurbished mall offers *tiangge* prices in air-conditioned comfort

PHOTOS BY VAL HANDUMON

NEW look for the Greenhills Theater Mall

WHO would have thought that the old Greenhills Theater would get a face-lift?

For months, there were rumors that the major players in the mall industry wanted to buy it from the Ortigas owners, each one planning to relaunch it as still another melting pot of movies, fast foods, restos and shopping stalls for avid mall rats. But the rumors remained rumors.

The former movie house beside the Music Museum would only occasionally open its dull-gray, aging doors for a special event of a corporation or a Christian fellowship.

Since last month, though, the old-timer has reopened and positioned itself as the new kid in town. The Greenhills Theater Mall blazes its titles out in front, the colors and flashing lights easily catching the eye of the passersby. Unlike most movie houses situated in malls, the doors immediately open to the theater area.

The entire building has actually gotten a new coat of paint, which has brightened and revitalized it. Favorite names in the resto industry have already been drawing loyal customers. Hungry yuppies or ladies taking time out from their shopping can take their pick of Delifrance or Starbucks Coffee on the left side of the theater at the first floor. Those inclined toward fine dining can go up the second floor to either Pasto or Dulcinea. On the right side is the game arcade Timezone, where kids race cars, shoot down zombies and hunt for rampaging dinosaurs. All done virtually and amid very loud noise, of course.

Blast from the past

The centerpiece of the place obviously is the twin theaters. The spacious, glitzy lobby was designed as a reminder of a past era when moviegoing was still considered a class act. The high ceiling and extensive floor area, surrounded by walls that seem to be lined with svelte material, seem to invite entire families to come inside, removing that sense of crowded-ness of a jammed movieplex.

One part of the wall is plastered with posters of movies currently showing and future attractions, their glass cases brightened by surrounding mini bulbs. The main wall, though, which immediately greets the ticket-buyer, is one huge collage of artwork, the cartoonish faces saying that movie-watching is intended to be fun.

The theaters themselves are made to look cozy and comfortable. Like most state-of-the-art theaters in Manila, the chairs are ergonomically designed for comfort and have armchairs with containers for the habitual soft drink. But unlike other movie houses, the Greenhills Theater Mall twins are not cramped. The floor design facilitates easy walking and cleverly separates the orchestra and lobby. Going from one to the other is manageable; no extra stairs or unnecessary wall trips you up. More importantly, the entire floor is brightened a little by strategically placed filtered lighting. Mini strips of orange rays peer out from the carpets. The effect is unobtrusive, but helpful. People coming in when the lights are out, or during the darkest parts of a movie, can still find their way to the seats.

Both theaters can accommodate 255 people each and have Dolby Digital and THX-approved sound capabilities.

Unique style

The real treat, though, for this theater complex is the mall. An exit near the sandwich stand outside the lobby leads to intertwining corridors that make up the shopping area. In that unique style associated with the Greenhills sense of economy, the strips are narrow and fluid, surrounded on both sides by open, wall-less stalls of goods. But unlike those in neighboring Virra Mall or Shoppesville, the corridors and small shops are well-lighted and well-ventilated. About 10-15 of these small stores line each strip on either side, presenting an array of bags, shirts, pants, summer dresses, fashion items, telecom products and home décor. The intimacy creates a friendly atmosphere conducive to haggling and bargaining, but the design and spray of colors effectively remove the harassed, sweaty and dirty images commonly associated with the marketplace.

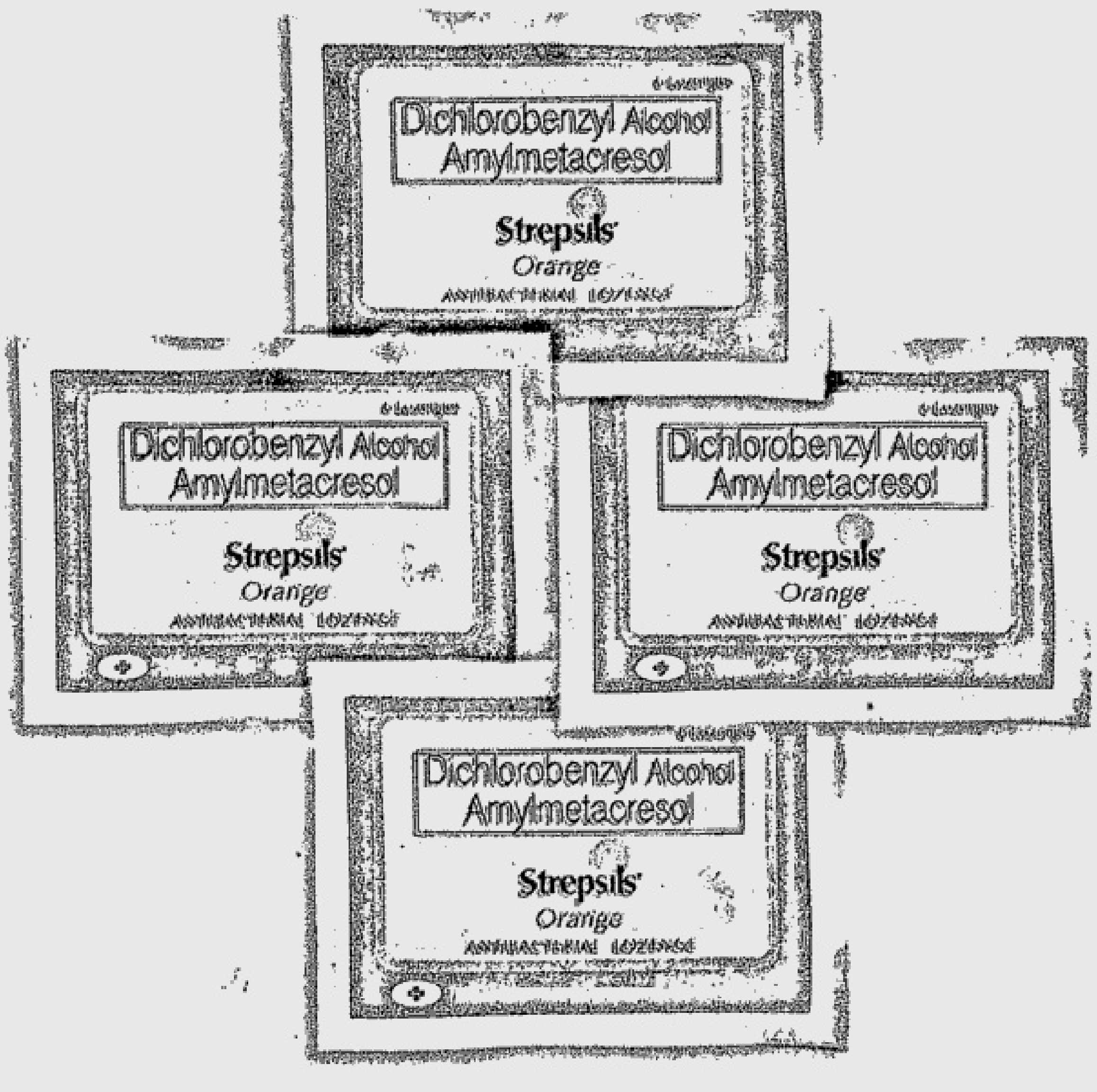
PRECY Florentino

The strip culminates in a small fast-food section at the end of the mall. Different kinds of cuisine are offered by the dozen or so eateries, from ever-reliable Pinoy home cooking, Japanese sushi, American bread, to Italian pasta. This fast food, though, is arranged like a café, again perhaps to evoke that comfortable, intimate, personal ambience. The seats are not rows of metallic three-seater chairs facing each other. Instead, round tables surrounded by cozy chairs invite busy shoppers to sit down and relax for an hour of good food and pleasant conversation.

"If you notice, the stalls and the eateries inside the Theater Mall are not made up of the big-brand names. We still want to hold that *tiangge* image where people can be comfortable," says Precy Florentino, the Music Museum owner responsible for Greenhills Theater Mall's new look. Florentino is currently leasing all of the Theater Mall's 3,500 sq m from the Ortigases.

Her vision that guided the five-month construction of the new complex is simple: "We are still catering to the ABCD crowd. That means everyone. That also means that people should still feel at home. Greenhills has always been the mecca of bargain bins. We want to keep it that way."

Air-conditioned space, sprawling *tiangge* where goods still come cheap despite the classy furnishings. The mall sounds like it's made-to-order for these penny-pinching times.



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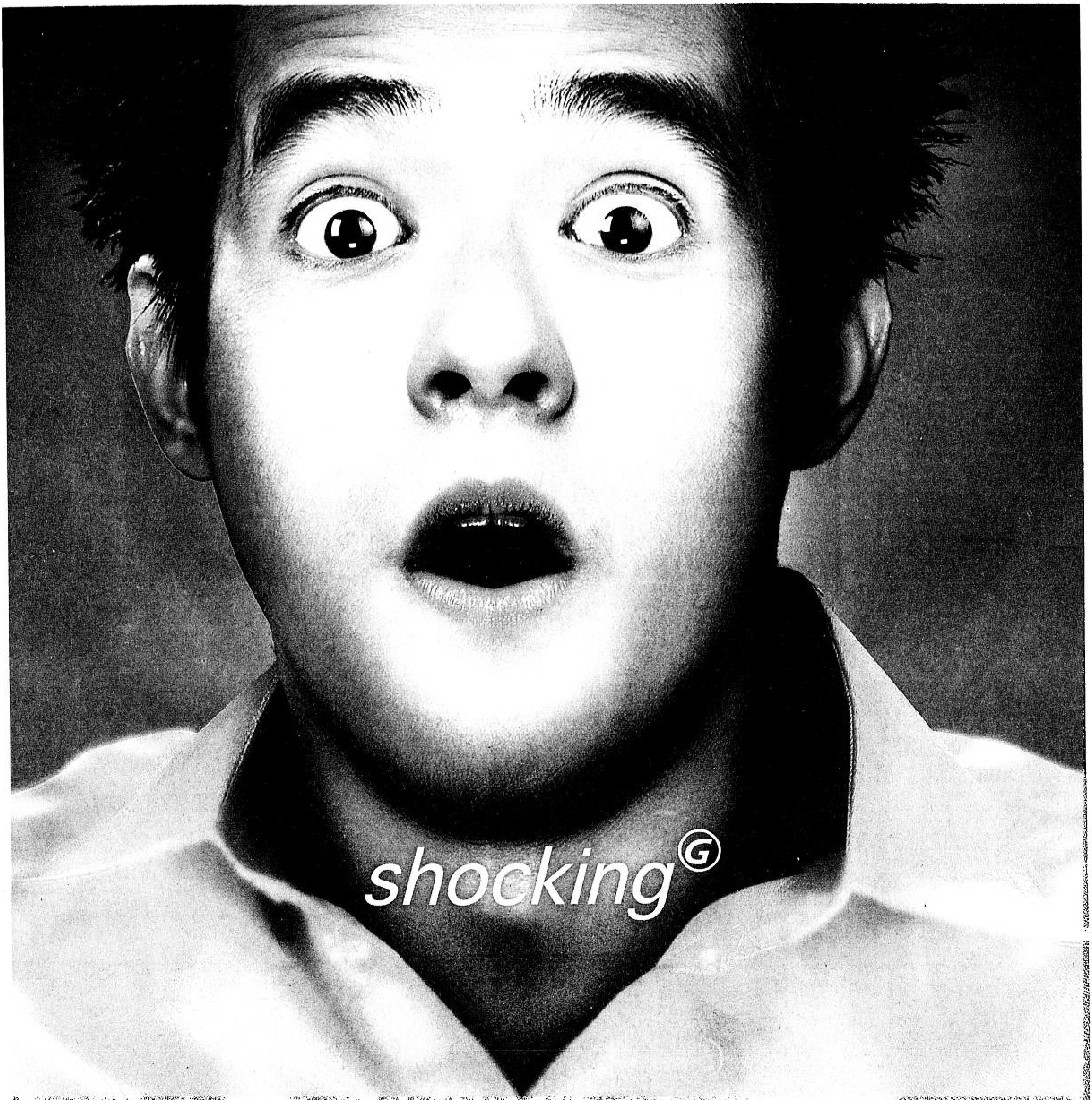

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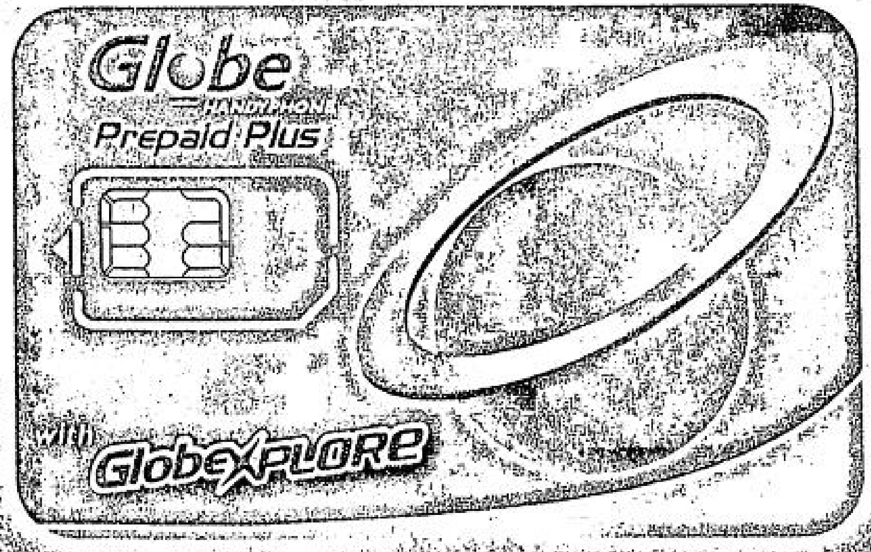
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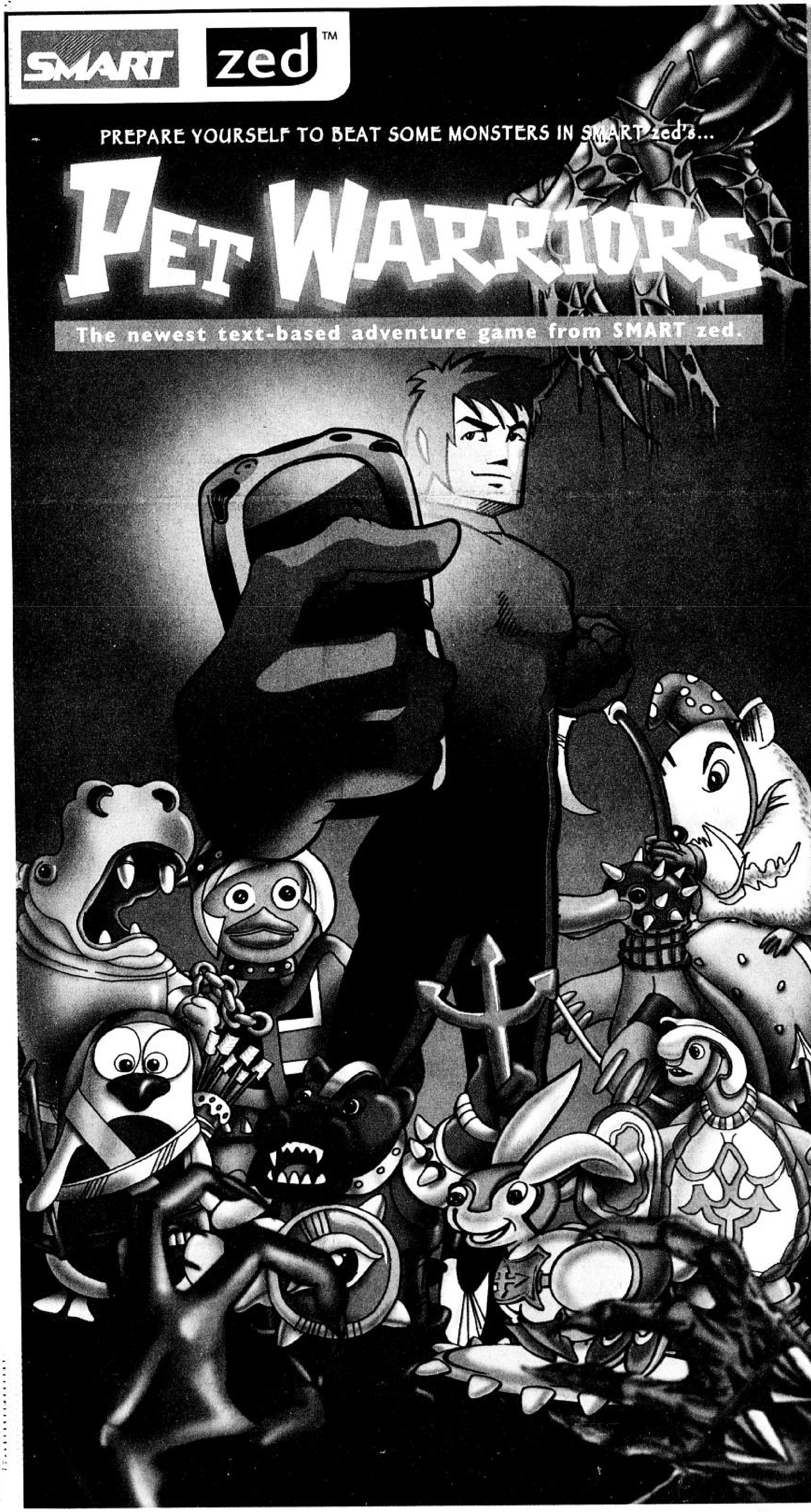
Joey was on the verge of resigning himself to a life of bachelorhood. Although dated in the past and even entered into a couple of relationships, it seemed he would never find that someone with the special spark. Yet he kept searching for his soul mate, the woman who would someday be his life partner.

Liz, on the other hand, rarely dated and kept mostly to her-

A ROMANCE/ p.D4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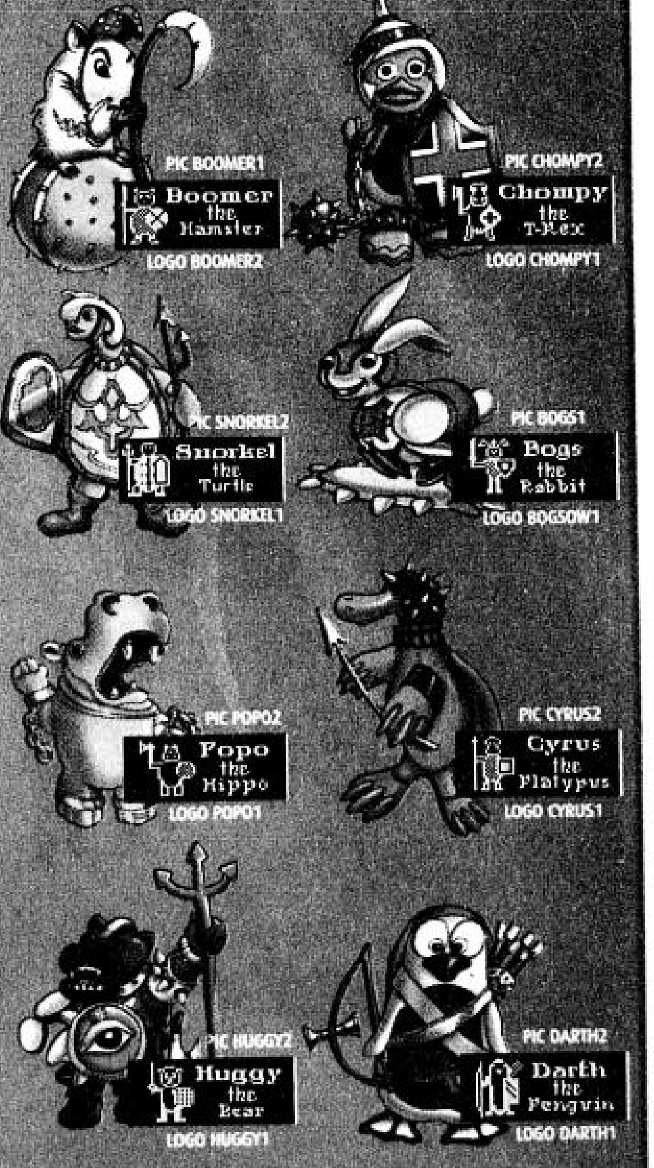
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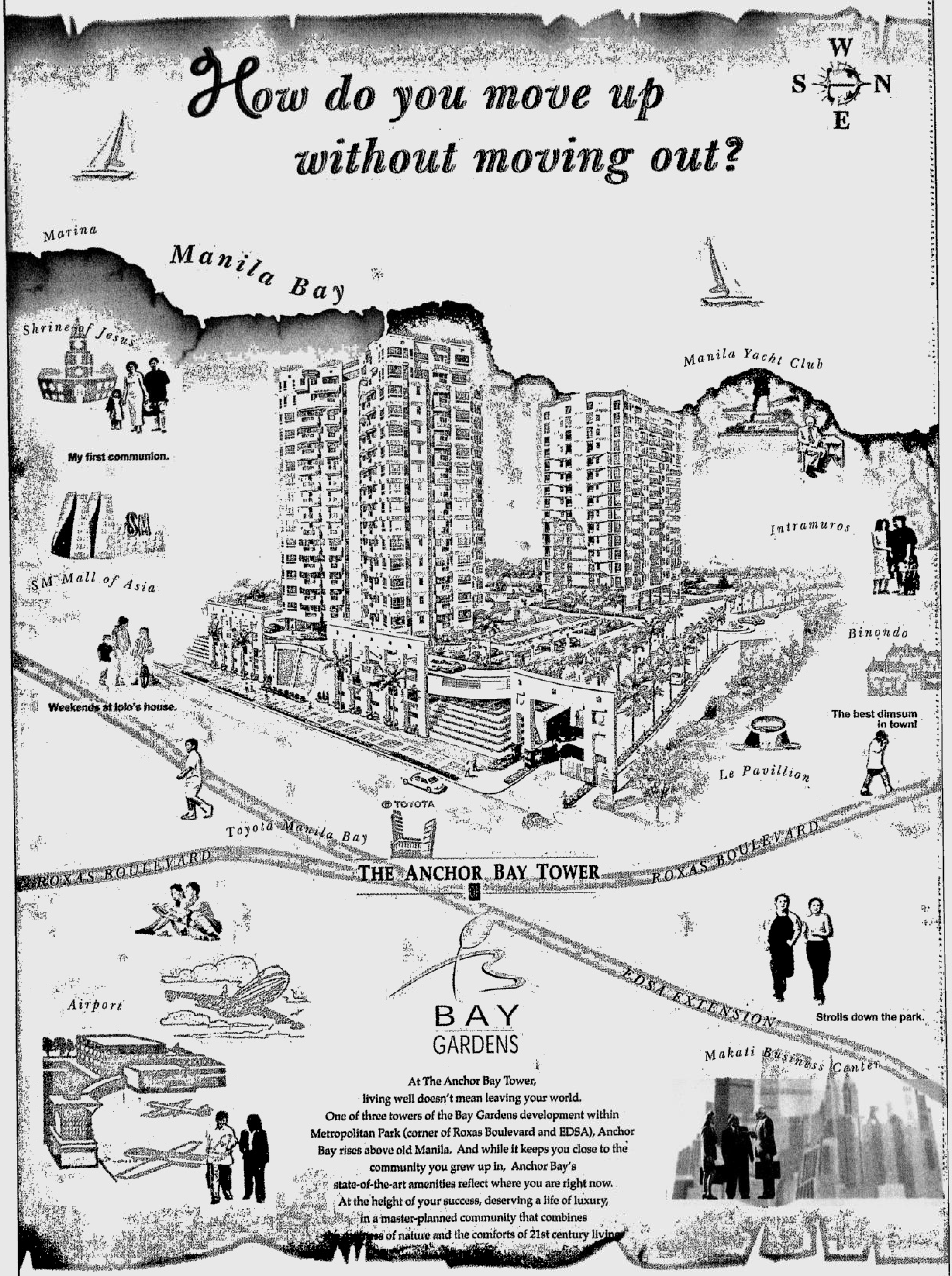
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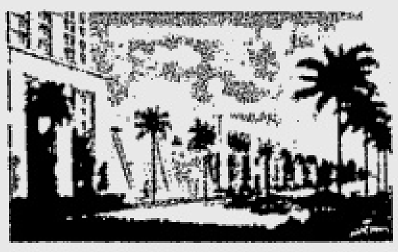
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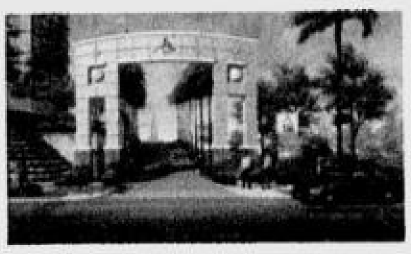
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A romance that's written in the stars

From page D1

self, not to mention the fact that her high standards for men limited her choices.

Although they worked in the same area, drove on the same streets and probably dined in the same restaurants, it seemed they would never meet. That is, until they both decided to take up further studies in the same school.

WITH THEIR parents Jan and Helen Decloedt and Rosario and Vic Gregorio

After finishing his law studies at the Ateneo, Joey joined his father's practice in the firm established by his grandfather, the late Rodegelio Jalandoni, and the former Philippine Vice President Emmanuel Pelaez. In between cases, he enrolled at La Salle's MBA program in the Greenhills campus. Liz was also enrolled at the same school in the same program while working for Robinsons Recreation.

On several occasions, Joey spotted Liz in the campus and wanted to introduce himself to her. Since they were not classmates, Joey had to look for other ways to arrange a meeting. His resourcefulness paid off when his good friend Beck, who became Liz's classmate, finally agreed to make the introductions but only after much prodding from Joey as Beck knew all too well Joey's dating history. Liz agreed to meet Joey and the two instantly became good friends. After three months of dating, they decided to tie the knot.

Joey is the son of lawyer Vicente Gregorio and Rosario Gregorio. Liz is the daughter of Jan and Helen Decloedt. The two were wed at the groom's parish, Santuario de San Jose, in solemn rights officiated by Fr. Napoleon Jinon. Principal sponsors were Ma. Therese Macapagal, Dr. Mary Ann Lansang, Carmelita Borlongan, Lily Ngo Chua, Luis Pacquing, engineer Peter Nepomuceno, lawyer Eduardo delos Angeles and James Go. An elegant reception followed at the clubhouse of Wack Wack Golf and Country Club.

THE NEWLYWEDS cutting the wedding cake

Wireless LAN-extending Internet and networks without the wires

BACK on the road again and raring to cash in on the free time of the office desk. But a presentation is bubbling in the mobile professional's head at the same time the mood to listen to Top 40 music kicks in. No problem. All he needs is a laptop computer and Internet access.

Laptop computer, no problem. Internet access, no problem.

Cables to connect, problem?

No problem.

A not-really-new but rapid spreading technology called wireless LAN (local area network) is capable of handling broadband connectivity to the Internet and networked computers while in public places. As "wireless suggests, it does not restrict Internet and network connections to the presence of cables and sockets, thus extending the areas of Internet access to public spots such as universities and coffee shops.

This means all a user needs is a laptop computer and a wireless LAN card attached to it and he is all ready to check and upload his attachment-loaded e-mail, update his daily reports or access shared files from his company's network, no plugs necessary.

He updates his company's inventory database over coffee without going back to the office and he immediately knows which items are in stock and which are in running low. This makes supply and delivery systems more efficient for this company and more beneficial to the customers he is serving.

Or he is a frequent traveler. He hardly makes contact with his office desk, and his laptop computer is his workspace. Wireless LAN helps him extend productive work hours and get more from the wealth of information on the Internet because mobility does not limit his Internet and network access.

And by the way, he is also able to download his favorite MP3s or watch a streaming broadcast of his favorite NBA team sweeping the scoreboards. Not only he get quality work done, he also gets quality high-bandwidth entertainment.

The wireless LAN technology operates on the 802.11b specification developed by the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE), more commonly known as Wi-Fi (wireless fidelity), which offers a 2Mbps maximum bandwidth range and provides data rates of up to 11 Mbps. This enables the user to download web pages in an instant, watch streaming videos and enjoy the benefits of having broadband Internet access minus the complications of jack and ports.

Wireless LAN is gaining popularity in Asian cosmopolitan hubs, and the Philippines is catching on. Wireless LAN is fast becoming lifestyle necessity of the mobile professional, Filipino mobile professionals included.

BLiNK
be linked to the internet, without wires.

ePLDT, the information and communications technology company of the Philippine Long Distance Telephone Company is pilot testing this wireless LAN technology in the Philippines with exclusive partner of Cisco Systems, the world's leading networking technology company.

ePLDT and Cisco have identified certain public areas called "hotspots" for the pilot deployment of Blink™, ePLDT's wireless LAN solution from Cisco's Mobile Office Program such as hotels, resorts, convention centers, cafes, universities, airports.

ePLDT will launch Blink™ very soon in these "hotspots," aiming to service the needs of mobile professionals to improve their lifestyles, to stay connected and update in the face of fast and demanding business and social trends.

ePLDT Blink™ is brewing the next exciting episode. What's the next scene to watch out for? Corporate data with coffee. In a blink.

For more information, visit the ePLDT website at www.epldt.com or send an e-mail to info@epldt.com.

ADVT.

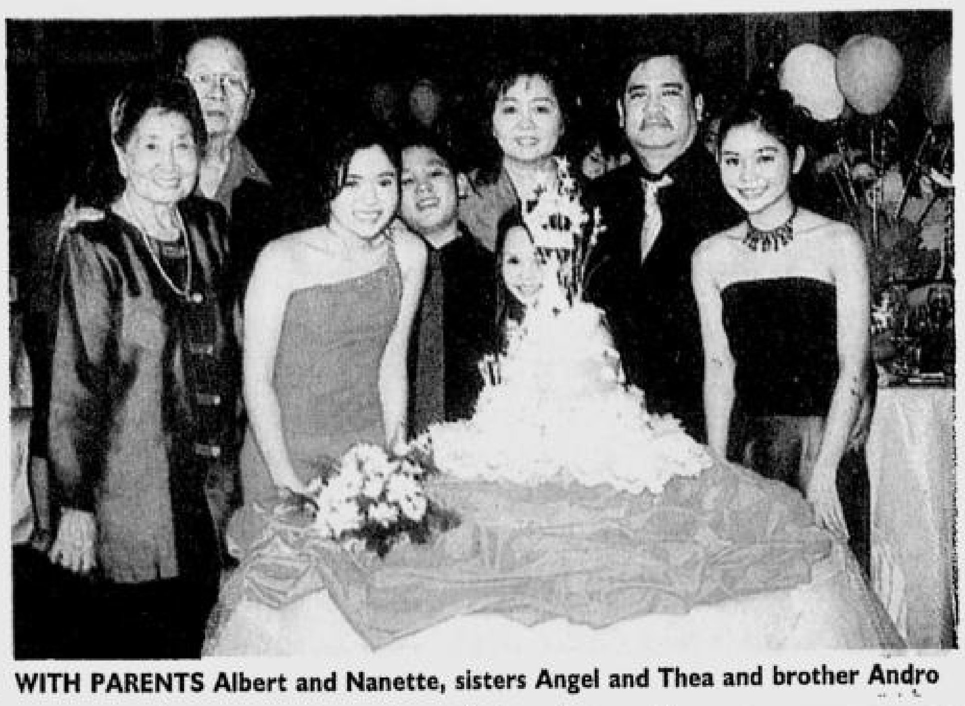
Debutante sheds tears of joy

ALESSA V. de Rivera, daughter of Albert and Nanette de Rivera, celebrated her 18th birthday at the Wack-Wack Golf and Country Club in Mandaluyong City.

The surprise party, organized by mother Nanette, head of Research and Development for Alriver Export Corporation, and younger sister Angela, made the debutante cry. A European-inspired setting—modern but elegant and simple—was created for the event. Colorful balloons and blooms filled the hall. Instead of a video show, a computer graphics presentation was prepared.

The debutante, a senior at St. Paul's College, wore a pink gown designed by couturier friend Mila S. de Leon. Her makeup was done by Teng Roma of Emphasis.

ALESSA with classmates Margaux, Katey and Charisse



WITH PARENTS Albert and Nanette, sisters Angel and Thea and brother Andro

MICHELLE leads cotillion with escort BJ Balattao.

Lavish debut is still about family

By Donnie C. Ramirez
Contributor

EVERY young girl dreams of having a debut to remember. Some get their wish and some don't. Count Michelle Robles among the lucky ones. Stepping into the threshold of full womanhood was a true milestone for her.

Doting parents Exequiel "Excy" Robles, Sta. Lucia Realty president and CEO, and Diding de la Paz-Robles made sure that their little girl's passage from bobby socks to stockings would be unforgettable.

Michelle's recent coming-out ball at the NBC Tent in Fort Bonifacio Global City was certainly an event in Manila's junior set. The venue was transformed by Flower Facade into a palette of vivid Versace colors like fuchsia, tangerine, yellow and citrus. A life-sized winding staircase was built specially for Michelle's grand entrance. Appearing at the top of the stairs, she slowly stepped down to meet the members of her cotillion.

(CLOCKWISE, from top left) Ivy Leoncio, Marion Robles, Debbie Andres, Patrick Andres and Joanna Robles

Doting parents made sure that their little girl's passage from bobby socks to stockings was unforgettable

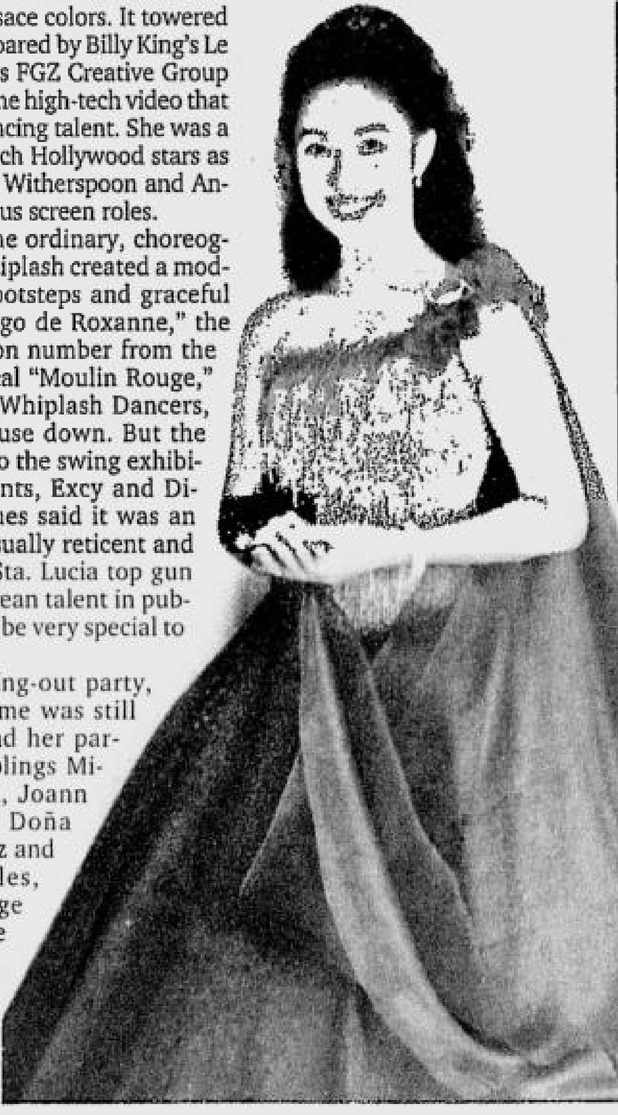
Five noted designers—Inno Sotto, Larry Espinosa, Oskar Peralta, Patrice Ramos-Diaz and Joe Salazar—created Michelle's gowns. Penk Ching made the multi-tiered fondant cake inspired once again by Versace colors. It towered over the lavish buffet prepared by Billy King's Le Soufflé. Frannie Zamora's FGZ Creative Group worked for weeks doing the high-tech video that showcased Michelle's dancing talent. She was a delight impersonating such Hollywood stars as Gwyneth Paltrow, Reese Witherspoon and Angelina Jolie in their famous screen roles.

Veering away from the ordinary, choreographer Andy Albis of Whiplash created a modern cotillion of lively footsteps and graceful body movements. "Tango de Roxanne," the showstopping production number from the Oscar-nominated musical "Moulin Rouge," was performed by the Whiplash Dancers, nearly bringing the house down. But the biggest applause went to the swing exhibition of Michelle's parents, Excy and Diding. Business colleagues said it was an event in itself for the usually reticent and extremely camera-shy Sta. Lucia top gun to display his terpsichorean talent in public. Michelle must really be very special to her dad!

It was a lavish coming-out party, but the pervading theme was still family. As Michelle and her parents, together with siblings Michael, Jayson, Marion, Joann and her two *lolas*, Doña Marcela Roxas-de la Paz and Doña Dominga Robles, gathered on centerstage for a family portrait, the glow on their faces showed that they were one happy, loving family.

Welcome to adulthood, Michelle!

MICHELLE'S parents, Sta. Lucia Realty president Excy and Diding Robles

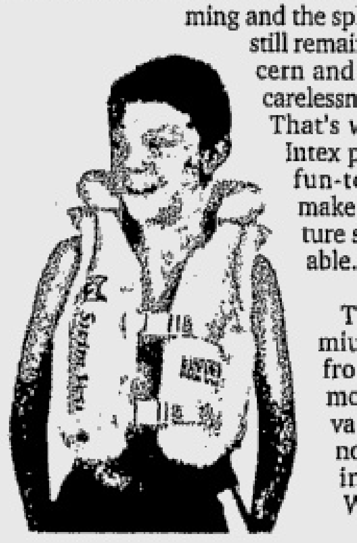


MICHELLE Robles, Manila's newest deb

Get wet, get set for the summer adventure

Temperatures are rising. The sun's heat is blazing. There's simply no denying that summer has stepped into the scene once again! Time for that great outdoor getaway dad has been planning for the weekend. Time to bare some skin and perfect that tan that mom and sis are raring to have. And most definitely for kids, it's time for that much-awaited vacation to head off for a good swim!

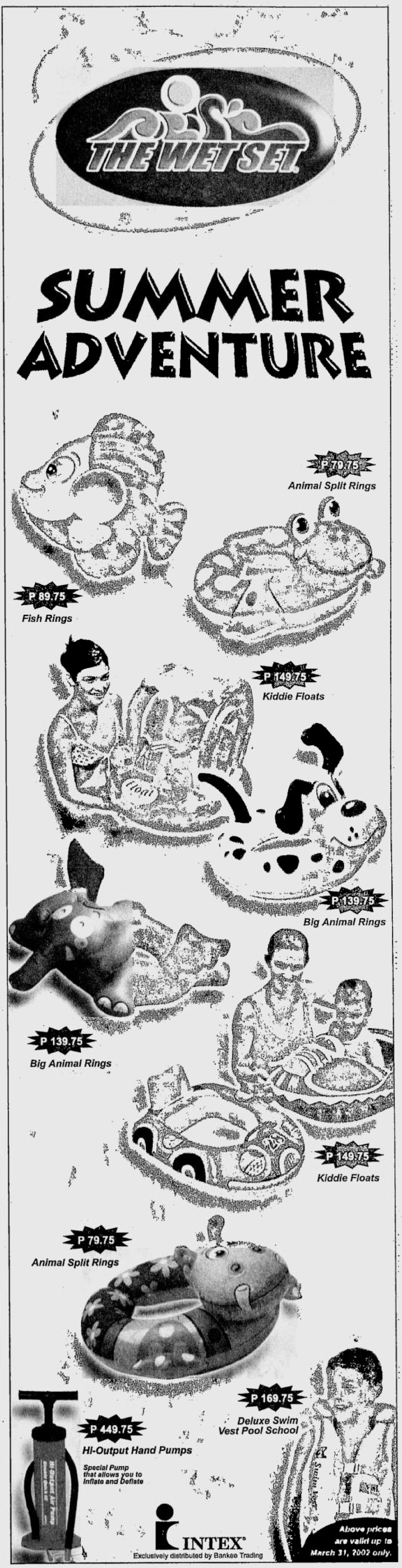
Youngsters just can't seem to get enough of the water once summer's in. Whether it's the beach, the pool at the clubhouse or garage, the idea of splashing around, kicking and making bubbles in the water is enough to captivate any kid's idea of summer fun. With all these pleasures, it's no wonder why you can't easily convince a kid to do anything else once the soothing rush of water comes on! But even with all the swimming and the splashing, safety should still remain as your utmost concern and the slightest hint of carelessness is a definite no-no. That's why The Wet Set by Intex presents its line-up of fun-to-use inflatables to make your summer adventure safer and more enjoyable.



The Wet Set is a premium line of swim gear from Intex, a name famous for utilizing innovative and creative technology in manufacturing inflatables. The Wet Set has specially-designed inflatables that cater to your kids' needs and are practically eye-catching too! You can choose from a variety of its safety rings crafted in plush designs such as fish rings, animal split rings and big animal rings that look like your favorite dog, a frog or even an elephant! Throw these out on the water and watch your kids hit that big summer splash! For toddlers, there are Wet Set kiddie floats in different styles like cars and shoes among others. For some serious swimming, The Wet Set even has a Pool School Deluxe Swim Vest to better your kid's strokes. And for you to ease up the inflating process, The Wet Set provides you with Hi-Output Hand Pumps. This special pump not only allows you to inflate quickly, it actually lets you deflate for hassle-free storage of inflatables.

So, are you all set for a great summer season? You'd better be! And with The Wet Set, you're definitely ready to swim and make waves for a spectacular summer adventure! So get set to get wet with The Wet Set now! Exclusively distributed by Bankee Trading and available at all leading department stores and toy stations.

ADVT.



TRAVEL

Editor **Rosario A. Garcellano**

Cold *front*

BUCKINGHAM Palace glowing in the dark

PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE OFFICE OF THE PRESS SECRETARY

By Tony S. Bergonia

THE SMOKE coming out of my nostrils and mouth could not have come from the cigarette I lit, I thought as we stepped out of the well-heated Heathrow airport.

Cigarette smoke has some heat in it, but this one wasn't as warm. And London at about 5 a.m. was hazy—or was the mist just the effect of sitting sleepless in a 16-hour expanded economy class flight?

The cold didn't hit until the memory of a recent international weather forecast in the Internet came flashing back—an average 11 degrees Celsius and a low of 0, helped along by darkness and wind.

A brief spell of vertigo delivered the message with an exclamation point: It's cold outside!

Thistle Hotel near Kensington Palace was a neat fireplace in which to warm the ears and fingers that seemed to be getting brittle from the cold.

A bellhop couldn't say exactly how old the hotel was. But from the smell of aging wood, the bathroom tiles kept white by dogged cleaning, or the doors that made a deep, shutting sound, he could be right when he said it was at least 100 years old.

Outside, the sun was fighting its way through what appeared to be a wall of gray stuff hanging over the city. There was no use asking why the sun could not give off heat this time in London. Its rays were just enough to give light, not to thaw the nose.

Street life

But the streets beckoned.

I thought thermal underwear, an undershirt, a dark-colored shirt, black pants, a blazer and a light-colored trench coat would be sufficient to ward off the sharp cold. But there's always room for error. And time enough to run back to the hotel to pad the armor. Lesson learned: Heed people who've been through winter.

A few meters away from the hotel, the mist seemed to float just above the pavement to reveal pairs of running shoes speeding through the grayness. S-it, I thought, why am I shivering while these hardy souls are jogging in their shorts and tees?

The gray stuff was broken only by dashes of red—those two-deck buses that ply London's streets and that, old-time Londoners would say, are the best way to see the sights, provided the fog doesn't get there first.

And no, the fog didn't arrive ahead to hide three-foot-thick concrete slabs arranged in a zigzag manner on a short stretch of road past a black steel gate leading to Kensington Palace, where the late Diana lived. A reaction to a terrorist attack in the past, people say.

I discovered that the postcards weren't lying. All taxis in London are painted black. The color also seemed to be the favorite of Ferrari owners in the city.

If the sights can't be seen (I imagine they're fantastic when the sun succeeds in piercing that sturdy gray wall overhead), one can engage in people watching.

Cast aside memories of movies on racism that Hollywood has produced to remind Americans of humanity. It's common in London to see mixed-color couples—tall (six feet upward) young men of African descent standing at street corners with white women, smoking and laughing—and it would be really stupid to gawk.

There's also a bar called Sticky Fingers that lives up to its name.

Smudges (probably from a cheese sauce or dip) glowed on the menu booklet and, yes, stuck to the fingers. But 10 pounds for a pitcher of beer would drive most drinkers away from Manila bars.

The time I was there, music by Sting was playing, but the TV set to the left of a row of bar chairs showed the Rolling Stones in concert.

I amused myself watching the bartender spill beer or soda on the bar and promptly pull out Bible-thick paper towels to wipe the mess. I thought, either this guy owns the joint or that precious paper comes free.

River ice

If London was gray, Ottawa was white.

And it's amazing how the cold can freeze a hangover long enough for one to reach Ottawa, where, at minus-1 Celsius, residents could not rejoice because the river hadn't frozen sufficiently for them to make figures on the ice and stay standing.

CANADA'S Parliament House in Ottawa on a clear day

Gerry, a resident of Quebec and a van driver, said Ottawa would have the longest ice skating rink around this time (early February), except that the temperature was still mild and the river hadn't turned to solid ice—yet.

"There'd be different colors on that river," he said pointing to the winding body of water. "You'd see every color of winter coats and jackets and shoes and skates drifting by."

In spring (about a month away), the jackets are replaced by violet, red, white and yellow flowers and water lilies floating on the river, Gerry said.

New pieces of equipment—a pair of gloves, head gear, a scarf—can make a mall less than a kilometer away from the Lord Elgin Hotel appear to be so near.

But another lesson was learned, answering the question of why few people were walking outside: Subzero temperatures stretch distances.

Staring at the snow covering statues, benches, sidewalks, trees and cars made me feel cramped in the hotel room measuring nearly 20 feet by 15 feet. But another attempt to reach that ever-elusive mall on foot was interrupted by a voice saying in Filipino: "It's cold out there."

Leo

His name is Leo, and he's a maintenance man at the Lord Elgin Hotel. A resident of Ottawa for 12 years now, he knows what he's talking about.

"Just the other day, I was almost wading in snow just to get to work," he said, remembering one stormy day when schools and shops in the city were closed. "My car was stuck in knee-deep ice."

Leo had many questions to ask: "Is the President arriving? What time? Are you with him?" (He had forgotten that the President, Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, is a "her.")

He also had stories to tell.

"I didn't even finish high school," he began. "I was a driver in the Philippines. When I first got here, I didn't even know how to speak English."

"My girlfriend petitioned for me," he said. "The first time I got here, I really missed home. I wanted to go back. I told her I couldn't take it."

One episode Leo can't forget—and seems to savor narrating—is when he first took the bus.

"I was smoking and the driver stopped, got out of his seat, and approached me," Leo recalled. "'Are you smoking?' he asked. 'Yes, I am,' I said. 'That's not allowed here,' he said. 'But I always smoke in the bus in the Philippines,' I said. 'Not here you can't,' he said."

Now, more than 10 years after that first bus ride, Leo describes Canada as the best place to live in, although he still can't smoke—not in front of his son, not inside the house, and definitely not in the bus.

But Leo wouldn't encourage a walk to the mall: "You need real thick winter jackets."

No wonder coat hangers are abundant even inside Parliament Hill, where the Canadian Prime Minister holds office and which can be mistaken for a cathedral with its high ceilings and arches.

The stone steps shone in the controlled lighting of the chambers inside the Gothic building, whose interior reminded me of horror movies past.

The deeper I walked into the dimly lit halls and corridors, the warmer it got, and the easier it was to forget that it was freezing outside.

But the cold wouldn't disappear like imagined things, and a cab parked about five meters from the building's wooden doors (nearly 10 feet tall and five feet wide) seemed a kilometer away.

Never mind that the Lord Elgin Hotel looked like a shack compared to Parliament Hill.

Waiting

The ride to the bus terminal took about an hour—more than enough time to gaze at the marble-sized bits of snow that fell on the van windshield and by the roadside.

The van door swung open at the entrance of the terminal to let me out. The cold can be bitter, especially when it's near midnight.

Inside the terminal, a man wearing a five-gallon cowboy hat sat in a chair, his cargo in front of him—two empty plastic drums and an attaché case. A young man in a ski mask paced the floor, pulling along with him a piece of luggage as big as a TV set. A black man in faded overalls and boots dripping with melting snow collected garbage and stuffed them in a black plastic bag.

The words in the book on my lap kept getting smaller. Telekinesis could help move the terminal clock's hands faster, but some people simply don't have it.

The bus was still about 30 minutes away from leaving for Toronto—the day's last trip out of freezing Ottawa.

Don't leave your bags unattended, I was told, and the thought of lugging my baggage with me just to sneak a puff outside discouraged me from leaving my seat.

By this time, the sticker showing a red circle with a red diagonal line across it and a drawing of a lighted cigarette in the background had become so familiar it was truly irritating.

On the road

The sound of a roaring engine couldn't have been sweeter after almost an hour of waiting.

Ottawa's street and building lights grew ever smaller as the bus moved into the dark highway.

The speed limit was 50 miles an hour. The bus moved slower than that because the thing that shone on the road as the headlights struck it was melting snow, too slippery for even the most powerful brakes to cope with.

The road signs were luminous—this town, population 1,000, that town, population 800.

Some of the houses had lights burning. Stores selling bread, food, car accessories, clothes, even insurance policies, were lighted inside but had long closed for the day.

The highway went past, shades of white breaking the long stretch of darkness.

An auto shop was one of the most well-lit spots on the highway. Looking at the brand-new (but snow-covered) BMWs, Volkswagens, Mercedes-Benzes and Ford Expeditions was fun.

Discovery: When riding in a Greyhound from Ottawa to Toronto, it pays to listen to what the bus driver says before the trip begins.

"Don't follow me when we stop over and I go to the washroom" was all I could recall the driver saying. And the instruction didn't sink in until after about three hours into the trip.

Passengers were given up to 30 minutes at the stopover, a gas station with a round-the-clock grocery selling coffee and "hot" sandwiches that you get from the freezer and then pop into a microwave.

Panic initially set in as I stepped out of the grocery and found two Greyhounds parked side by side at the gas station, looking exactly the same. It didn't help that the drivers switched buses.

It also pays to remember the number of your bus.

A pair of drunken men clambered into the bus headed for Toronto. They were lucky to be recognized by the driver of the other bus that was headed for Ottawa, who had transferred to the bus going to Toronto.

"Hey, guys, you're on the wrong bus!" shouted the driver.

"Yo, man, hey, man!" yelled one drunk to another. "We should be on the other bus!"

Snowstorm

The potato fries on the menu of a 24-hour Toronto food joint were actually flakes, but good.

The temperature wasn't any warmer at a little past 6 a.m., and people talked about a snowstorm coming although you couldn't see it in the sky.

Underground walkways lined with shops and restaurants provided the suit and trench coat a badly needed break from the wind.

The hotel room was cramped, but I didn't mind that the heater occupied about 10 percent of the space.

It was time to head to the airport for the more than an hour flight to New York when, outside the hotel window, appeared what at first looked like a huge white blanket draping the buildings and streets.

Then the blanket moved diagonally—it was pouring snow.

Several queries from airport personnel resulted in a trip to the airport amid heavy snowfall. Slow-moving vehicles lined up behind trucks with dredging equipment attached to their fronts.

What perfect timing for a snowstorm.

I got past the Delta Airlines counter, through X-ray and body search, and was about to plug in the laptop on orders of a female security officer when an airline worker called out my name.

Came the dreaded words: "Flight cancelled." The mobile phone, laptop and keys had to be retrieved from plastic cases that made it past the X-ray machines.

Air Canada provided a glimmer of hope.

The usual routine—check-in, baggage inspection, X-ray, body search—became grating when it had to be repeated four times. Frustrating, too, particularly when the planes didn't take off at all.

After about four trips to the airport, someone suggested the train. There's only one trip a day to New York, and it leaves at 9:45 a.m.

I took a taxi to the terminal driven by a cabbie of Italian descent whose brother is married to a Filipino woman. His courteous comments on Filipinos made the falling snow less scary to look at.

The train left almost on target.

Conversations

The longest stop was at the border, when US customs officers came aboard to inspect cargo and passengers.

A blond, gum-chewing, wiry-haired female officer took a real close look at the contents of the green passport and asked why I was taking the train.

I pointed at the thick, gray clouds that kept spitting out snow and said: "No planes coming out of Toronto."

As the train went deeper into US territory, it made several stops to pick up more passengers.

A woman, probably in her early 70s, took the seat next to mine and asked: "Were you able to smoke back here?"

"I think this is a no-smoking train," I said, and pointed to that familiar sign.

"Oh, I sat in the back thinking I could smoke," she said, putting back in her handbag a cigarette that she had taken out.

The train went past a snow-covered lake, and she began to chat:

"I'm going to visit one of my sons. There are five of them, actually. One is in California."

"My son is married and my daughter-in-law loves to read books like I do." (She was tightly holding a John Grisham novel.)

"I don't like cussing in stuff I read."

"I move around visiting my sons, except for the one in California. That's what I do to pass the time."

I wondered why she was visiting her children alone, and asked about her husband.

A brief pause and her eyes turned sad and teary. "He's in the hospital for Alzheimer's. But he'll be OK, he'll be OK."

Fatigue set in and sleep stole a few hours from the 12-hour trip.

"They're smoking outside," the woman said as the train stopped for a change of engines. "If you want to smoke, I'll watch your bag for you."

Outside, there was nothing to stick no-smoking stickers on.

Manila and more

BILL Vincent, general manager of Holiday Inn Manila who has been at his post for four months, was initially discouraged from coming to this country.

"All you heard about were kidnappings," he recalled at the recent launch of the hotel's two tourism campaigns.

And then, he said, he attended the reopening last week of Dos Palmas Resort in Palawan as a representative of the Hotel and Restaurant Association of the Philippines, and came away convinced that "we cannot let terrorism affect our tourism."

Vincent also noted that some people were bypassing Manila and heading for other, safer regions. And yet, as a general told him, "there are more crimes in Washington, D.C. than in Manila."

As a way of doing its bit for the city and the country, the hotel has launched its "Explore Manila First" and "Positively, Philippines" campaigns.

Vincent, originally from New Zealand, said Manila had much to offer in terms of arts, culture and nightlife. "The warmth and sincerity of the people here are stronger than in other parts of Asia," he added.

Bernardo Corpus Jr., executive assistant manager of the hotel, explained the "Explore Manila" packages for local residents and *balikbayan:* P2,500 for single or double occupancy and P3,000 for triple occupancy to include superior room accommodation, buffet breakfast at Café Coquilla, a souvenir baseball cap, use of the pool and gym, entrance pass to Casino Filipino and a 10-percent discount on food and beverage orders.

An additional rate of P1,600 is charged for two persons who take the city tour, which begins at nearby Rizal Park. There is also the "Summer Breakout" promotion ongoing until May 31 for local residents "who like to splurge in the summer without having to go out of town."

It gets better on June 1-Sept. 30 with "More of Manila for Less," wherein locals and business travelers are entitled to 50 percent off the US dollar rack rate for all room types. A buffet breakfast is thrown in.

Councilor Ricardo Isip, speaking for Manila Mayor Lito Atienza, said that for tourism to be meaningful, "each Filipino should be responsible for showing what is best in our country."

The mayor has an urban renewal program that includes clearing sidewalks, employing more traffic aides and increasing police visibility so both residents and visitors feel safe.

According to Corpus, the provinces will visit Holiday Inn through its "Positively, Philippines" program.

The "Pagayaya II Festival" featuring the food and crafts of Cagayan Valley is on until March 23.

An Independence Day dinner buffet is lined up at the same café on June 12, followed by food festivals of Bacolod-Iloilo in July, Pampanga-Bulacan in September, and Samar-Leyte in November. For an international flavor, a Thai food fest is set in August at the café and a German buffet and New Zealand food promo at The Rotisserie in October. ***Elizabeth Lolarga***

Milestones

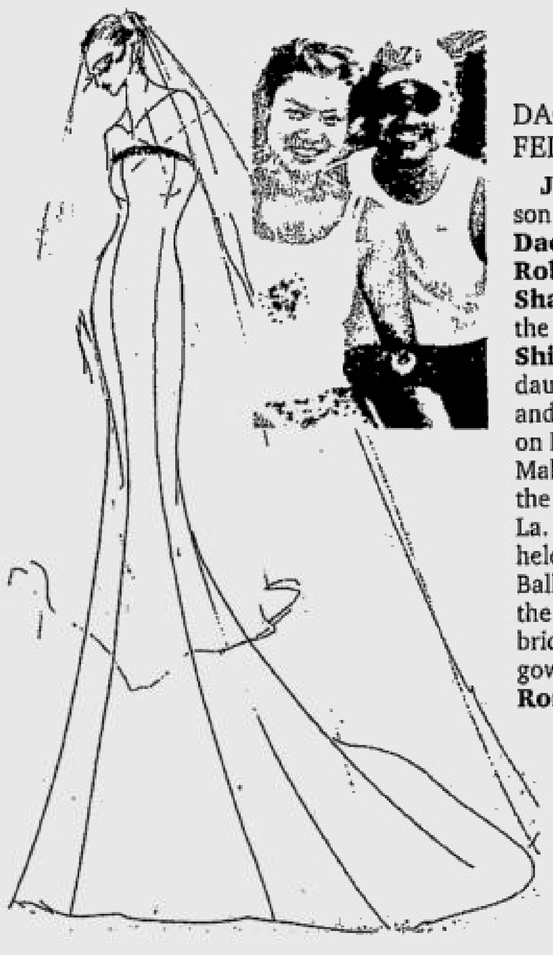
We're accepting announcements of weddings and engagements. Please send the following typewritten information: names of engaged couple, names of parents, date and place of wedding, gown designer and other related information. Readers can send sketches of gowns and pictures of the couple at least one month before the wedding at P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office 1263 Makati City. This will be printed depending on space availability and at no cost to the sender.

DUMA-VALENCIA

Architect **Milagros D. Valencia**, daughter of engineer **Rodrigo** and **Flor Valencia**, will tie the knot with engineer **Rolando C. Duma Jr.**, son of engineer **Rolando Sr.** and **Leticia Duma**, on March 20 at the St. Francis of Assisi Parish Church, San Pablo City.

MAGBOO-FIDER

Marte M. Magboo, son of **Elpidio** and **Remedios Magboo**, will exchange marriage vows with **Maria Gracia Pasco Fider**, daughter of **Juanito** and **Carmenchita Fider**, on April 14 at the Holy Family Parish Church, Bolo, Bauan, Batangas. The ceremonies will be officiated by Rev. Fr. **Ariel O. Gonzales**. Reception will be held at San Pascual Covered Court. The bride will wear a **Dennis Macarandang** creation.



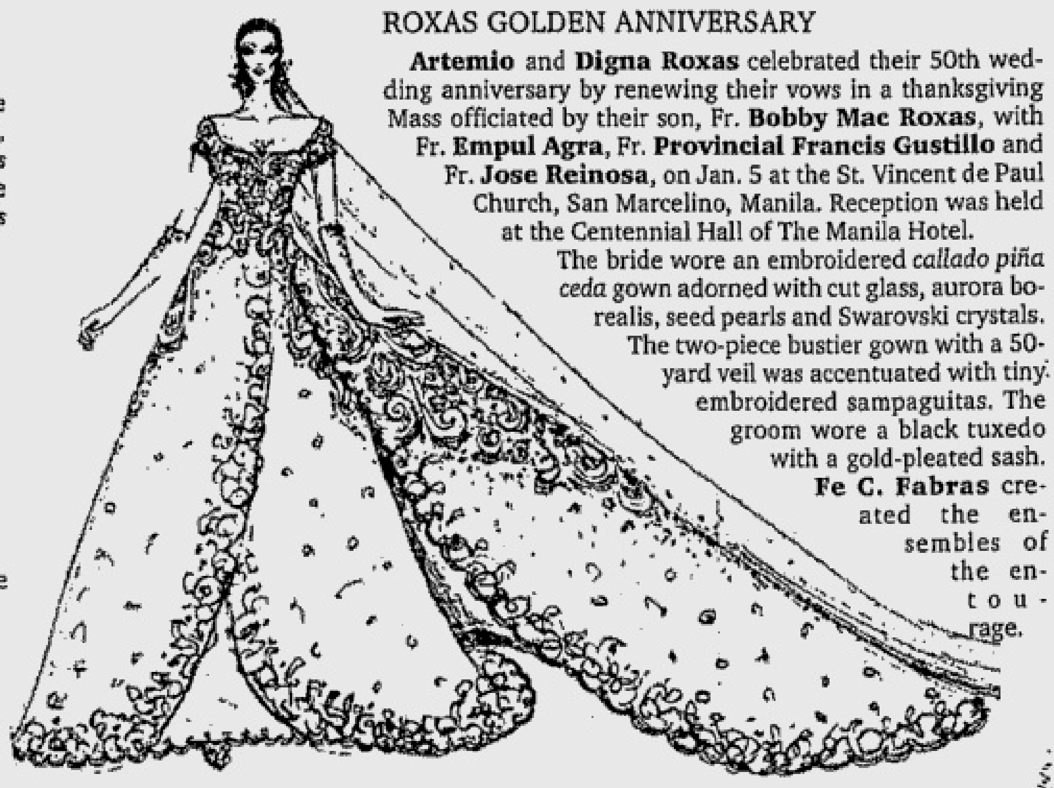
DACARET-FELIAS

Jason Dacaret, son of **J. Abel Dacaret** and **Roberta Shanowski**, will tie the knot with **Ellen Shiloh C. Felias**, daughter of **Nolito** and **Ofelia Felias**, on March 23 at the Makati A and B of the Makati Shangri-La. Reception will be held at the Quezon Ballroom A and B of the same hotel. The bride will wear a gown designed by **Ronnie** of Drezzee.

TRINIDAD-PABILONIA

Nino Trinidad, son of **Alberto** and **Jessie Trinidad**, and **Ethel Pabilonia**, daughter of **Eliseo** and **Zenaida Pabilonia**, tied the knot on Jan. 26 at Our Lady of Maulawin (Philippine Independent Church) in Sta. Cruz, Laguna. Reception followed at the ballroom of Rapids Hotel in Pagsanjan.

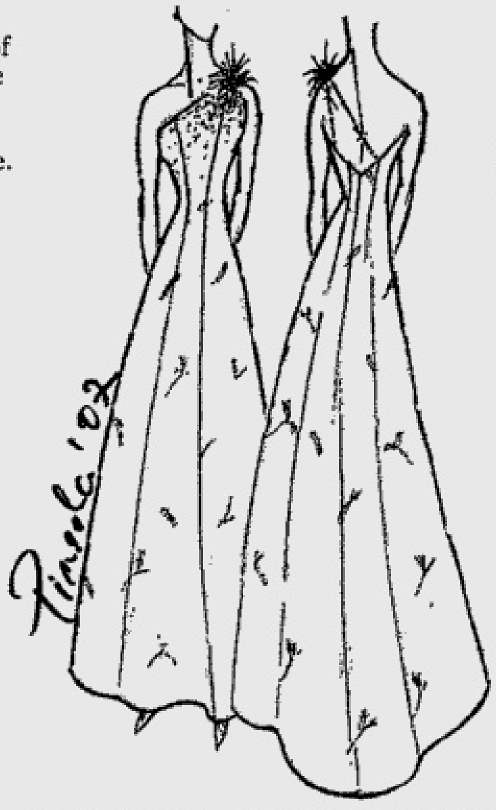
The bride wore a **Donnie Delima** beige duchess satin gown with pearls, glass beads and spangles. Her entourage wore ensembles in lilac.



ROXAS GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY

Artemio and **Digna Roxas** celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary by renewing their vows in a thanksgiving Mass officiated by their son, Fr. **Bobby Mac Roxas**, with Fr. **Empul Agra**, Fr. **Provincial Francis Gustillo** and Fr. **Jose Reinosa**, on Jan. 5 at the St. Vincent de Paul Church, San Marcelino, Manila. Reception was held at the Centennial Hall of The Manila Hotel.

The bride wore an embroidered *callado piña ceda* gown adorned with cut glass, aurora borealis, seed pearls and Swarovski crystals. The two-piece bustier gown with a 50-yard veil was accentuated with tiny embroidered sampaguitas. The groom wore a black tuxedo with a gold-pleated sash. **Fe C. Fabras** created the ensembles of the entourage.



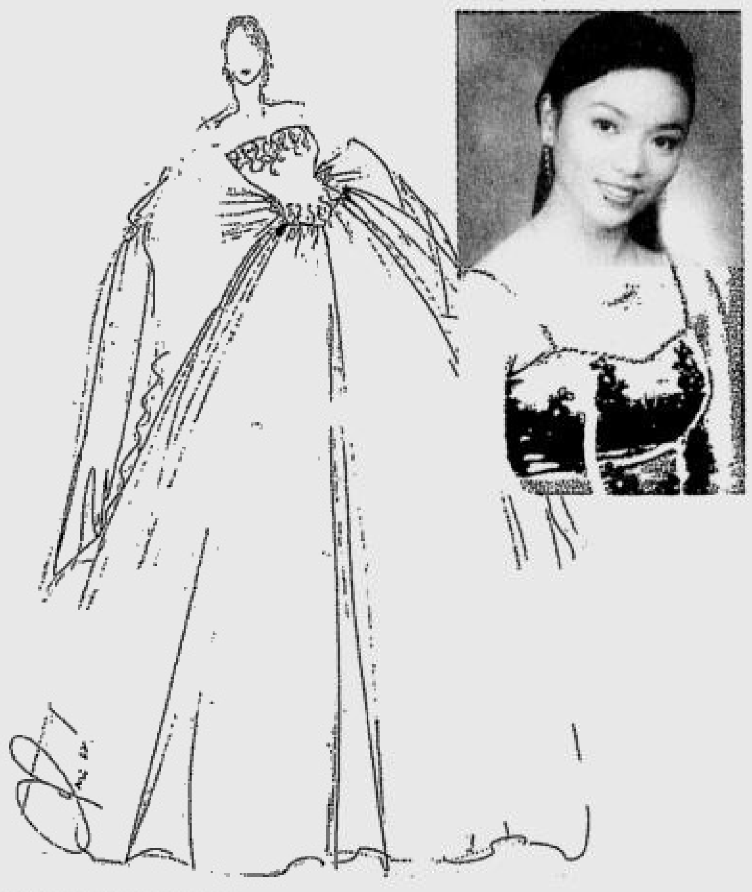
YAO DEBUT

Manilyn Yao, daughter of **Lily Yao,** celebrated her 18th birthday on March 16 at the Via Mare Penthouse, Tektite Towers, Pasig.

The debutante wore a mango yellow gown in dupioni silk designed by **Eric Pineda**. The venus-cut bodice was accented with ostrich feathers and rhinestones. The entire gown was textured with satin cording, caviar beads and yellow faux pearls. Flower-shaped Swarovski crystals adorned her hair.

ALON DEBUT

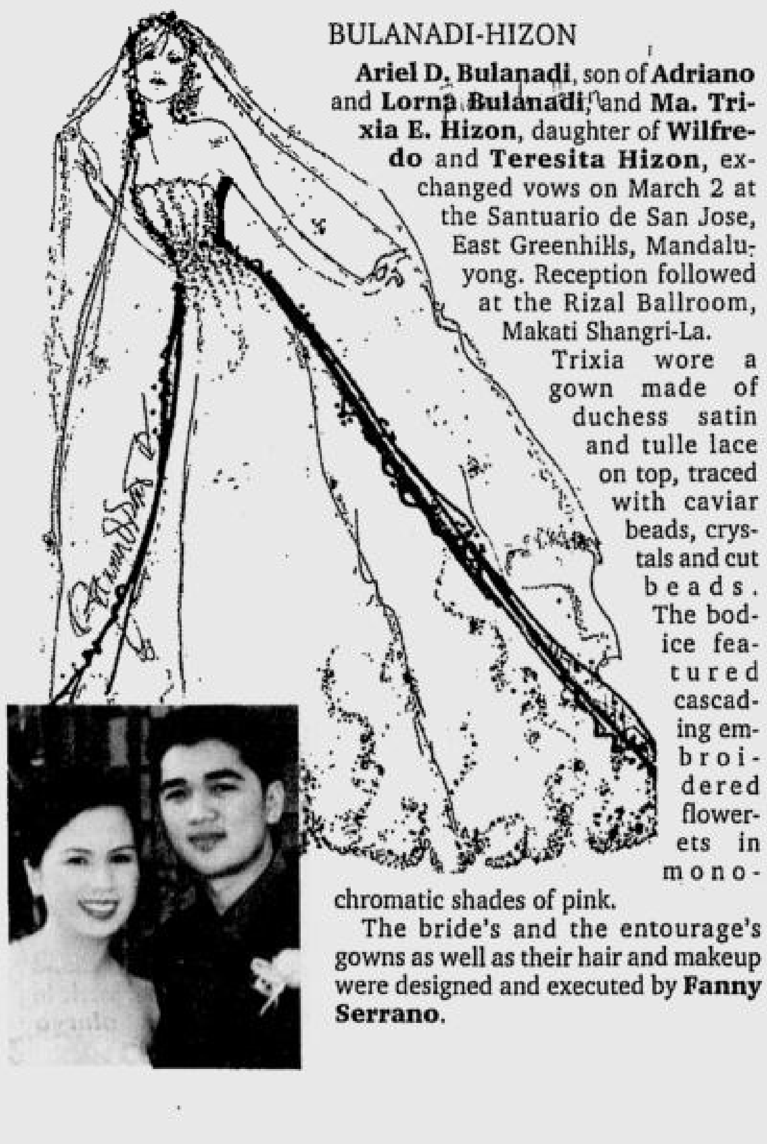
Maria Manresa "Eegoo" A. Alon, daughter of lawyer **Raul** and Dr. **Ma. Soledad Alon**, marked her 18th birthday March 7. A party will be held for her on April 5 at the Manila Midtown Hotel.



ZAPANTA DEBUT

Michelle L. Zapanta, daughter of **Nelson** and **Candie Zapanta**, will celebrate her 18th birthday on March 20. A dinner-dance party will be held on March 22 at the ballroom of the Bayview Park Hotel on Roxas Boulevard. Michelle is a BS-Math/CS freshman at the Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila.

For her formal wear, **Rhon Francisco** designed for Michelle a bustier-type gown with an overlapping skirt made of bluish green Irish organdy and heavy silk satin, with beadings of crystals, cut beads and rhinestones. **Claro Yongco** also created a lime yellow cascade dress made of Irish organdy and embellished with crystal pearls, and a cocktail dress with fine cut beads.



BULANADI-HIZON

Ariel D. Bulanadi, son of **Adriano** and **Lorna Bulanadi**, and **Ma. Trixia E. Hizon**, daughter of **Wilfredo** and **Teresita Hizon**, exchanged vows on March 2 at the Santuario de San Jose, East Greenhills, Mandaluyong. Reception followed at the Rizal Ballroom, Makati Shangri-La.

Trixia wore a gown made of duchess satin and tulle lace on top, traced with caviar beads, crystals and cut beads. The bodice featured cascading embroidered flowerets in monochromatic shades of pink.

The bride's and the entourage's gowns as well as their hair and makeup were designed and executed by **Fanny Serrano**.

SPOT THE EGG.

Celebrate Easter at the Shang's EGGS-capade Easter Egg Hunt!

The eggs have disguised themselves and hidden in secret places around the mall. Don't let them escape! The chase begins at 1 pm on Easter, March 31, 2002, Level 5. The hunt is open to parent-child teams. Registration is on-going on a first come, first served basis until March 24, 2002 at the Sacred Heart School-Children's Activity Center, Level 5.

Kids will also enjoy Shang's other Easter activities:

'Tickle Me and Color Me, Too!' Egg & Bunny Painting Contest Kids will surely enjoy tickling eggs and bunnies all over with brush and paint. Take them to Color Me Mine, Level 5, to register from March 15-22, 2002. The contest happens on March 23, 2002 (1-2 pm & 4-5 pm) and March 24, 2002 (4-5 pm) inside Color Me Mine, Level 5.

* **'Easter's Funny Faces' Face Painting for Kids** It's the mark of a happy face that had fun at the Shang. Get your little ones a face paint on March 31, 2002 from 1-5 pm at the Shang Food Court. Free for every P1,000 same-day purchase you make at any Shang store on March 31, 2002.

Shangri-La Plaza

* Per DTI-NCR Permit No. A3-208 Series of 2002. See Leaflets for Details.

Sacred Heart School Gingersnaps MULTIVITAMINS ENERVON Nestlé OREO

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The significance of St. Joseph and the Holy Family

PURELY PERSONAL

Josephine Darang

WITH THE OPENING of the St. Joseph exhibit and Novena Masses at Hospicio de San Jose last March 10, it is fitting to mention that Msgr. Josemaria Escriva put the Opus Dei under the patronage of the Holy Family on May 14, 1951. He went to the Oratory of the Holy Family in Villa Tevere (the Roman College of the Holy Cross) in Rome and prayed to the Holy Family there.

The theme of this year's exhibit mounted by the Friends of St. Joseph Foundation is "San Jose: Sandigan ng Pamilya (St. Joseph: the Support of the Family."

'God will add'

In his homily on St. Joseph delivered on March 19, 1961, Blessed Escriva said, "Joseph in Hebrew means 'God will add.'" God does not only provide material things, but he also adds a divine dimension into our lives.

The founder of Opus Dei added, "In normal life, Joseph was Jesus' master in daily contact, full of refined affection, glad to deny himself to take better care of Jesus. Can't that reason be enough for us to consider this just man, this holy patriarch, in whom the faith of the Old Covenant bears fruit as a master of interior life?

"Interior life is nothing but continual and direct conversation with Christ, so as to become one with him. And Joseph can tell us many things about Jesus. Therefore, never neglect devotion to him: "Go to Joseph"—as Christian tradition puts it in the words of the Old Testament ("Christ is passing by," page 56).

Offering work as a prayer

Joseph was a carpenter and a good one at that. His work might have been a humble, lowly task, but he did it lovingly. St. Joseph is teaching us to love our work. This is why he is called the patron of workers. He was a laborer, a carpenter.

Blessed Escriva offered work as a prayer so that God may be glorified. He said: "Just live your ordinary life; work at your job, trying to fulfill the duties of your state in life, doing your job, your professional work properly, improving, getting better each day" (Friends of God, 273).

50 images of St. Joseph on exhibit

Hermanos mayores Ma. Victoria Tengco and Luis Ablaza III opened the exhibit of St. Joseph images at the Hospicio de San Jose March 10, the first day of the nine-day novena. At least 50 images, big and small, are currently on display for viewing until March 19.

The other *hermanos* and *hermanas* who were present were Nena Aguinaldo, Consuelo Abaya, Eden Tiongco, Dr. Nandy and Baby de Jesus, Nelly Enriquez, Sonny Tanchanco, John Gaddi, Susan Laureola who proxied for her mother Luz Mojares-Dizon, Danny and Pining Reyes, Luisa Ong-Ang who proxied for her sister Ging Ong, Jose Mari Chan and *hermanito* Carlo Cortez. Other *hermanas* are Patria Jacinto, Ma. Luz Aspiras-Oreta, Doña Amanda Madrigal and Imelda Cojuangco, who also support the Friends of St. Joseph.

Newly ordained CM priests

Last March 12, six newly ordained members of the Congregation of Missions concelebrated in the Mass officiated by Fr. Roy Rosales, vice rector of the Manila Cathedral. They are Fr. Tin Cirujales, Fr. Rowell Consolacion, Fr. Ramon Encinares, Fr. Peter Heguilan, Fr. Manny Lapaz and Fr. Vhong Navarra.

Also concelebrating were Fr. Randy Marquez, rector of the Shrine of St. Joseph in San Jose, Batangas, Fr. James Hugo and Fr. George Varghis, chaplain of Hospicio.

It was a most beautiful Mass. Much later, the six new priests had their hands kissed by the people for obtaining indulgences.

New deacons

San Carlos Seminary will be the venue for the ordination of theologians into the diaconate on March 23 at 9 a.m. with Bishop Teodoro Bacani as ordaining prelate. They are from the Lorenzo Mission Institute.

Six of the nine ordinandi are from the Archdiocese of Manila, and one each from the Diocese of Cabanatuan, the Apostolic Vicariate of Palawan and the Diocese of Kabankalan.

They are Joselito Limbo Buenafe, Eugene Navarro David, Rolando Pagsisihan Garcia Jr., Antonio Bohol Navarette Jr., Prudencio Tupan Solomon Jr. and Alexander Orolfo Tomas from Manila; Nezette Oliveros Lirio from Cabanatuan; Enrico Rodriguez Uy from the Apostolic Vicariate of Palawan; and Joseph Vincent Chua from Kabankalan.

Upon receiving the order of deacon, these nine young men will formally become clerics.

Bishop Mercado's 25th anniversary

Bishop Jesse Mercado marks his 25 years as a priest March 18. He will officiate a solemn High Mass at 6 p.m. tomorrow at the Presentation of the Child Jesus Parish Church in Parañaque.

Pangasinan seminary to be blessed

Bishop Jesus Cabrera will bless the new minor seminary in Alaminos, Pangasinan on March 19, feast of St. Joseph, at 8:30 a.m.

Our Lady of Piat in Manila

The pilgrim image of Our Lady of Piat, patroness of Cagayan Valley, is now enthroned at the chapel of the Holiday Inn Manila until March 23 on the occasion of the "Pagayaya" food festival at the Café Coquilla. Those who wish to visit the Virgin can attend the 12:15 p.m. Mass every day until March 23.

Holiness in everyday life

With Holy Week fast approaching, I am quoting here Blessed Escriva's advice about gaining holiness in everyday life. We could reflect on this as we prepare ourselves for Holy Week.

"On the contrary, you must understand now more clearly that God is calling you to serve him in and from the ordinary, material and secular activities of human life. He awaits us every day, in the laboratory, in the operating theater, in the army barracks, in the university, in the workshop, in the fields, in the home, in all the immense panorama of work.

"Understand this well: there is something holy, something divine hidden in the most ordinary situations, and it is up to each one of you to discover it. There is no other way, either we learn to find out Our Lord in ordinary everyday life, or else we shall never find Him.

"That is why I can tell you that our age needs to give back to material nature, and to the most trivial occurrences and situations, their noble and original meaning. It needs to restore them to service of the Kingdom of God, to spiritualize them, turning them into a means and an occasion for a continuous meeting with Jesus Christ" (Conversations, 114).

St. Joseph exhibit in Batangas

Fr. Randy Marquez of the Shrine of St. Joseph in San Jose, Batangas would like to invite people to visit the exhibit on St. Joseph until May 1. Please call (043) 726-264.

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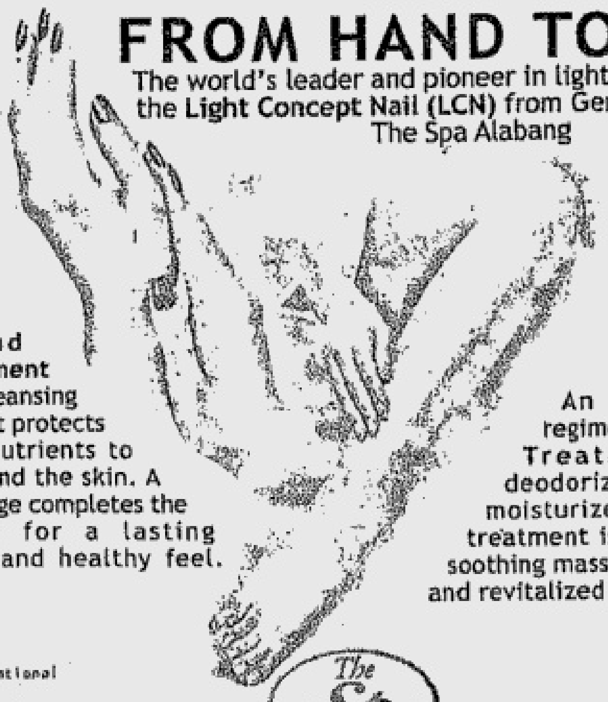

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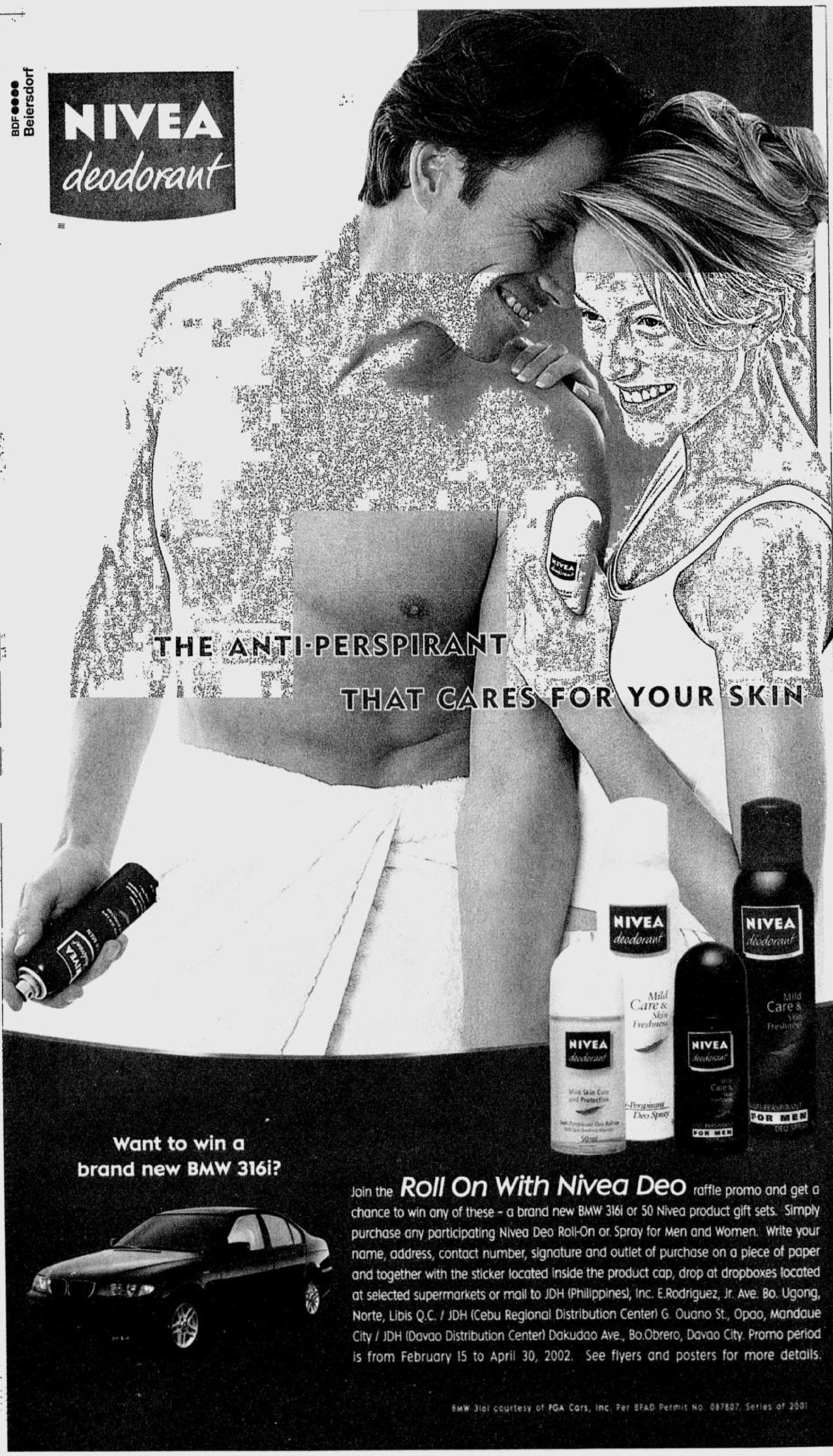

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Sunday LIFESTYLE

A CREATURE does human-like things in the womb.

An abortionist's spiritual journey

By Constantino C. Tejero

WE thought we had already seen the gory details in the mid-1980s with "The Silent Scream," a video showing an ultrasound of a child being aborted. That was until "Eclipse of Reason," a documentary on late-term abortion, was presented at St. Paul's College (SPC)-Manila Auditorium to a gasping, squeaking audience.

This one was even more disturbing, showing grislier images of dismemberment, blood spout

AN ABORTIONIST'S/ p.E2

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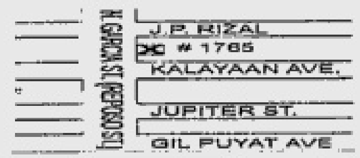
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FLOWER POWER. (Seated) Dr. Baby Manlapit, Tereret Liboro and Sessy Garcia; (standing) Annabel Adriano, Mellie Ablaza, Baby de Jesus, Letty Bengzon and Linda Pastoral

FRANNIE Jacinto, Mayen Carmona, Carol Masibay, Bettina Osmeña, Baby Araneta and Yaying Dragon

A tea party all abloom

"ARE you wearing flowers or ribbons?" asked the invitation to the tea party which was held last Wednesday at the home of Bea Zobel de Ayala in North Forbes Park.

In response, the guests to the Catholic Women's Club's "Afternoon of Ribbons and Flowers" wore flowers in their hair and/or on their elegantly casual clothes. The March Hare wasn't there but Mad Hatters showed up in the spirit of giving and caring. Brooches were pulled out of boxes to put the finishing touch on the spring fashion that almost everyone was wearing.

MADELAINE Lim, Meldy Cojuangco and Mercy Tuason

The guests—in every configuration of rich and influential—donated P1,000 each for the ticket that covered a Via Mare *merienda* and entertainment from the wonderfully insane Mitch Valdes.

Lulu Tesoro Castañeda, CWC president, welcomed all the guests after an invocation by past president Chloe Periquet.

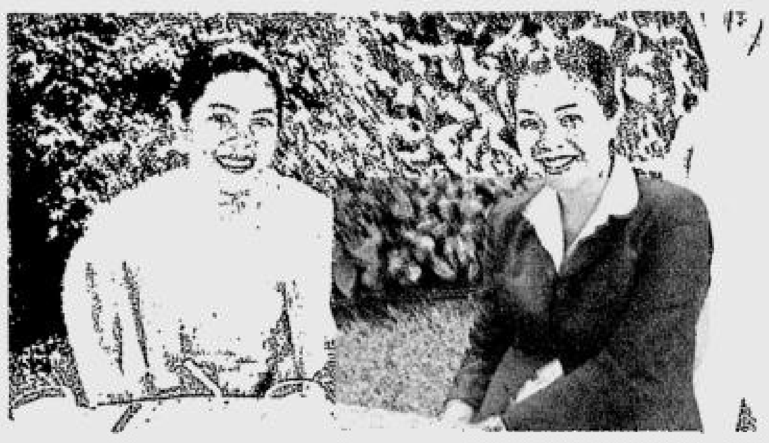
Awarded by Don Jaime Zobel, Imelda Cojuangco and Maurice Arcache for the most elegant attire was Baby Araneta, who came in red and white. Seegalit Jemal, who came in black floral, was awarded most original, and Mercy Tuason won for the most outrageous attire for her pink headdress.

At one side of the garden were tents for donated items for the silent auctions meant to give more boost to the CWC fund-raiser. Among them were framed photographs taken by Jaime Zobel, graduated sizes of Mangyan baskets donated by Bea Zobel, Jaime Laya's book "Letras Y Figuras," a few other books donated by Pilie Aquino, a painting by Carlo Magno, a lovely fondant cake and a tea set cake donated by Marta Matute, small home appliances, planters, and brooches.

Proceeds from the tea party will definitely make the CWC bloom with more projects and beneficiaries.

Springtime came early at the beck and call of the Catholic Women's Club

CARMEN Carceller

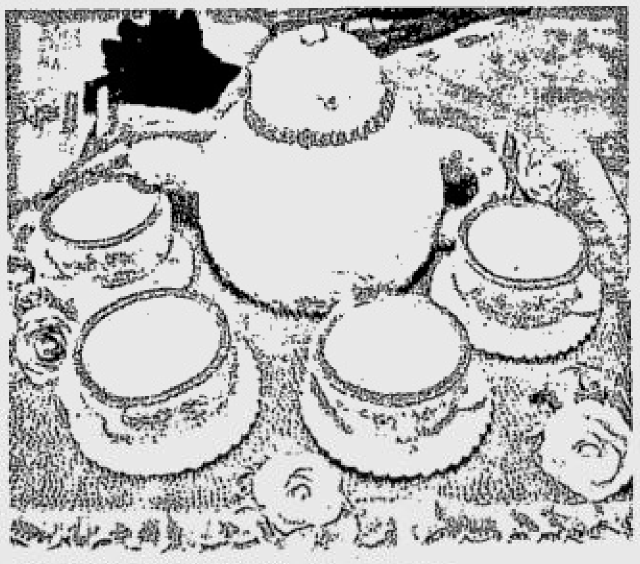


KITKAT Zobel and Neni Montinola Eduque

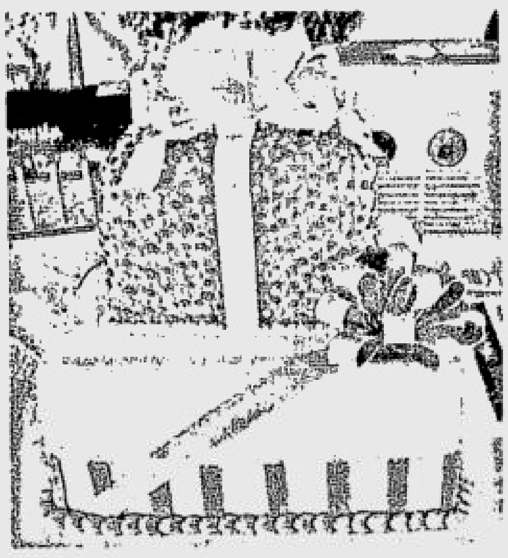
NENE Leonor and Tessie Villarama

HOSTS Bea and Jaime Zobel

PHOTOS BY JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN



FROM MARTA MATUTE. Tea set cake...



... AND fondant cake for auction

MITCH Valdes graces the afternoon with humor and songs.

From page E1

An abortionist's spiritual journey

ing, tender heads crushed, brains spilling out, fetuses dumped like dressed chickens or piglets.

"There have been more than 20 million abortions in the United States since 1973," said the narrator, referring to the year the landmark "Roe vs. Wade" decision was handed down by the United States Supreme Court, allowing abortion as "an integral part of the [women's] right to privacy."

The video's final sequence showed Dr. Bernard Nathanson, producer of the two grisly videos, confronting the audience: "Abortion is violence. What kind of world do you want?"

Nathanson spent three days in Manila recently, delivering talks before medical and health professionals, teachers, parents and students. He was the special guest of Pro-Life Philippines' 10th national convention, with "Unite for Life" as theme.

A thorny issue

During a conference with university and college paper editors and journalists, student council leaders, teachers and students at SPC Auditorium, Nathanson divulged some staggering statistics: There are over 1.5 million surgical abortions annually in the US alone, or 400 every day, 140,000 of which are late abortions (second or third trimester of pregnancy).

"Many think abortion is legal if it's 3-5 months of pregnancy," he continued. "But there's no difference between first-trimester abortion, second-, third- and infanticide. It is the same human being in various stages of development."

In her paper, "Abortion Law and Ethics in the Philippines: Restrictive and Punitive Norms in a Liberalizing World," Dr. Junice Demetrio-Melgar defines induced abortion as "the willful termination of pregnancy before the age of viability accepted by many experts as 22 weeks."

The age of viability is "when the fetus can live independently, though with external support, from the mother." The World Health Organization has determined "threshold viability" as coinciding with 22 to less than 28 weeks of pregnancy.

The legalities and ethics involved remain thorny issues for everyone concerned—from abortionist to constitutional expert, man and woman, mother and child, feminist and religious, pro-life and pro-choice. The debate has started to resemble the proverbial chicken-or-egg argument.

In a testimonial in "Eclipse of Reason," Kimberly McMillan, who established the first abortion clinic in the US and later became a pro-life advocate, said: "I think the women's movement has been terribly deceived, or misunderstood what abortion really means."

When life begins

At a luncheon conference with the media, Nathanson said, "A favorite pro-abortion tactic is to insist that the definition of when life begins is impossible; that the question is a theological or moral or philosophical one, anything but a scientific one. Fetology makes it undeniably evident that life begins at conception, and requires all the protection and safeguards that any of us enjoy."

A foldout from Human Life International says a fetus should be considered a human being long before it reaches the age of viability because, when chromosomes from the parents unite, they form "an absolutely unique, never-to-be-duplicated human person." A new living organism is created, even if it hardly weighs anything.

Any further formation is purely a matter of development, growth and maturation. At three weeks, although only one-tenth of an inch long, the organism already has beginnings of the eyes, spinal cord, nervous system, lungs, stomach, intestines. The primitive heart starts beating at about 18 days.

By 6½ weeks, the fetus starts to make body movements. At eight weeks, it can make a tiny fist, get hiccups, suck a thumb, sleep and wake. At 11 weeks, it can make complex facial expressions and even smile.

At 16 weeks, only 5½ inches long, it can use hands to grasp, swim and do somersaults. The 18-week-old fetus is active and energetic, flexes muscles, punches and kicks, making the mother feel its movements.

A new technique

Abortion techniques include:

- Prostaglandin (drug-induced premature labor; also done by salt-poisoning)
- Hysterotomy (mini caesarian section operation)
- Dilatation and curettage (surgical instrument introduced into womb dismembers unborn child)
- Suction (powerful vacuum pressure sucks unborn baby and placenta from womb).

The newest technique is called partial-birth abortion, according to Nathanson. On the eighth month or thereabouts, the baby's legs are pulled by a contraption until the head is almost out of the womb. The brain is suctioned from the head until it collapses. The umbilical cord is cut and the baby is torn away from the mother.

In the US, Nathanson said the procedure he described, which had the audience almost fainting, was practiced about 15,000 times a year.

AN ABORTIONIST'S/ p.E3

An abortionist's spiritual journey

From page E2

"I was responsible for more than 75,000 abortions in the past," confessed Nathanson, who was the director of New York City's Center for Reproductive and Sexual Health, then the largest abortion clinic in the world.

He was a cofounder in 1969 of the National Association for the Repeal of Abortion Laws (renamed the National Abortion Rights Action League), which convinced the US Supreme Court in 1973 to legalize abortion, thus producing "virtual abortion on demand up to birth."

A liberal cause

Nathanson said that, to achieve their goal, "We persuaded the media that the cause of permissive abortion was a liberal, enlightened and sophisticated one. We simply fabricated results of fictional polls and announced that 60 percent of Americans were in favor of abortion. This is the tactic of the self-fulfilling lie. Few people care to be in the minority.

"Another myth we fed to the public was that legalizing abortion would only mean that the abortions taking place illegally would be done legally. The annual number of abortions has increased by 1,500 percent since legalization.

"We vilified the Catholic Church and its 'socially backward ideas,' and fed the media such lies as 'We all know that opposition to abortion comes from the hierarchy and not from most Catholics.' An inference of this tactic was that there were no non-Catholic groups opposing abortion. The fact that the other Christian groups as well as non-Christian religions were—and still are—monolithically opposed to abortion was constantly suppressed, along with pro-life atheists' opinions."

Nathanson turned into a pro-life bioethicist in the late 1970s. Asked what pushed his conversion, he replied, "The study of the fetus." Beyond that, he wouldn't elaborate, saying it was too personal. He is now a clinical associate professor of obstetrics and gynecology at New York Medical College, and a visiting scholar at Vanderbilt University.

Same fatal flaw

In an open forum after the SPC video presentation, Nathanson was asked if contraception and abortion were related.

"They are not, but both result from the same fatal flaw in society," he replied. "The use of contraceptives is an abuse of the freedom of choice, it is not truly part of your choice. All these pro-choice slogans are empty slogans that I myself coined when I was on the other side. 'Reproductive rights' is just a euphemism for 'pro-choice.' It is a perversion of the freedom of choice, unacceptable in decent society. It's like, you may hiss or boo me off this stage, but you may not slap me or shoot me, because it is not ethically, legally or morally acceptable."

He was asked for advice on how to fight the attraction of sex to protect the youth from unwanted pregnancies, as they could hardly practice abstinence.

"If I may say so, sex has always been attractive right back to Genesis," joked Nathanson. "But that's a pessimistic view of the young... Tax cheating is no reason for abolishing taxes. And there's no such thing as a sex police... Personally, I think sex education is overdone in schools. It is too early, too much and too neutral."

Some justifications

A representative of St. Benedict College, this year's awardee as the academic institution most supportive of Pro-Life programs, asked about the medical justification of abortion, as when the fetus is at risk of being infected with AIDS by the mother, or when the pregnancy threatens the mother's life.

"With the advances of modern medicine, there's no medical reason for abortion any longer," Nathanson said. "Rather than aborting the fetus, what we should do is work together to cure the disease."

Someone mentioned two reasons often cited by pro-choice advocates: rape and incest.

"Neither rape nor incest is an indication or ground for abortion," Nathanson said firmly. "Killing a child will not erase the memory of rape, but only compounds the woman's sorrow.

He elaborated on this in an article: "One must concede that unplanned pregnancy is a wrenchingly difficult dilemma, but to look for its solution in a deliberate act of destruction is to trash the vast resourcefulness of human ingenuity, and to surrender the public weal to the classic utilitarian answer to social problems."

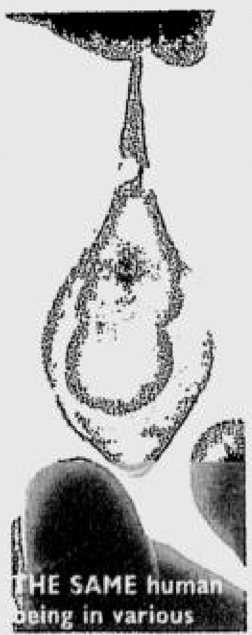
Adding a bit of dramatic flourish to his talk, Nathanson held up a ticking metronome and said: "Since I started speaking here to you today, 4,000 babies around the world have died from abortion. Only you can shut off this metronome."

A new technology

Although Nathanson did not go into details about his conversion, his book "The Hand of God: A Journey from Death to Life" gives some indication of what brought it about. He revealed that, in 1945, he persuaded his pregnant girlfriend to have their child aborted. Years later, he impregnated another woman and aborted their child himself.

But ultrasound, a technology introduced in the early 1970s, eroded "the supreme self-confidence that I was doing a major service to those who sought me out." Used by the prenatal research unit he set up as the obstetrics director of a New York City hospital in 1973, the technology enabled him to contemplate the beginnings of life. He started to have doubts at the sight of the fetus sucking its thumb and doing other human-like things in the womb.

"AN ABSOLUTELY unique, never-to-be-duplicated human person"



THE SAME human being in various stages of development

> Unplanned pregnancy is a wrenchingly difficult dilemma, but to solve it through a deliberate act of destruction trashes human ingenuity's resourcefulness

He experienced a turmoil in the soul when he went through the "literature of sin": Dostoyevsky, Tillich, Kierkegaard, Niebuhr, Lewis Mumford, Waldo Frank, but most of all, the "Confessions" of St. Augustine.

"I felt the burden of sin growing heavier and more insistent," Nathanson writes in his book. "... I am afraid."

He started to get disenchanted with his religion, Judaism. (According to him, there's a disproportionately high percentage of Jewish abortionists in the US, and nearly half of the religious organizations endorsing abortion are Jewish.)

A haunting question

It was at this time that he produced the video sensation "The Silent Scream." He was haunted by the question: "What is it like to terminate the life of your own child?" He even contemplated suicide.

Further readings of the works of Karl Stern, Graham Greene, Simone Weill, Pascal, Cardinal Newman, C.S. Lewis, Walker Percy, Malcolm Muggeridge, Richard Gilman—what he calls the "literature of conversion"—led him to a point where he was "prowling around the edges of Catholicism."

He was particularly fascinated with the writings of Luke the Evangelist, who was also a physician and "a credible first-century historian." He could grasp Luke's testimony that "the unbelievable events, such as a physical resurrection of the dead, were possible and had actually happened."

In 1996, Nathanson converted to Catholicism. Thus, he can no longer practice, advocate or cooperate in abortion, contraception and sterilization.

During the wreath-laying ceremony at the Tomb of Aborted Babies in the South Cemetery in Makati City last month, Pro-Life Philippines touched on this famous conversion in a manifesto: "We are here to pray for the conversion of all who procure, practice and promote abortion, for we know that no individual is beyond the pale of divine grace."

At the end of his book, Nathanson writes: "I am no longer alone. It has been my fate to wander the globe in search of the One without Whom I am doomed, but now I seize the hem of His robe in desperation, in terror, in celestial access to the purest need I have ever known."

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Just answer the daily J Lo questions for the day. Each correct answer will earn you one raffle entry for a chance to win any of these: NOKIA 8310, NOKIA 5510, or one of the 20 J To Tha Lo CDs each week. Promo runs from March 16 to April 12, 2002. Also, SMART Music Link members can get a free gift whenever they purchase a J to Tha Lo CD from Tower Records or Music One. They just need to show their SMART celfones with their Music One, Tower Records or Music Link operator logos when they make their purchase.

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You could win a Nokia 8310, Nokia 5510 celfone or a J Lo CD in the **"Get Hi on J Lo"** promo!

For our first offering, get a taste of Jennifer Lopez. We're giving away one Nokia 8310 or Nokia 5510 celfone plus one of the 20 J TO THA LO CDs each week in our Get Hi on JLo Promo! It's so easy to join! Just register for SMART Music Link through text then answer the daily Jennifer Lopez trivia questions through your SMART celfone. Each correct answer gives you one raffle entry. Join now! J Lo says, 'love don't cost a thing.' With SMART Music Link, a new Nokia celfone might not cost a thing either! Promo runs from March 16-April 12, 2002.

For feedback, text us at (0918)917-5026 or email us at lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph

Sunday LIFESTYLE

KIM Camacho, Sotheby's Philippines country manager and representative aims to increase awareness of Filipino art among international art collectors.

See you at Sotheby's

STORY ON PAGE F2

This week at SM Supermalls

BMG presents

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simple things autograph signing

MAR. 17 • 4pm
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MSA Summer Academic Advancement Program 2002

March 18 - March 26 (Mon to Sat 4 hrs./session) April 1 - April 19 or April 8 - April 26 (Mon to Fri 2 hrs./session)
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- Reading Workshop
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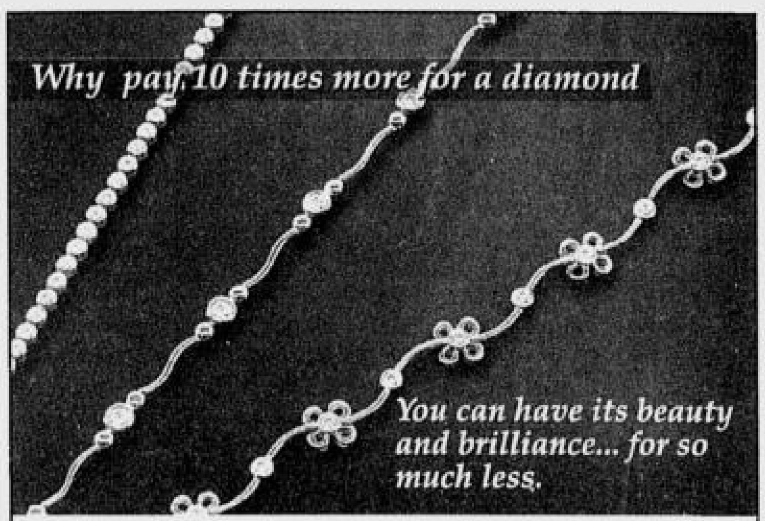

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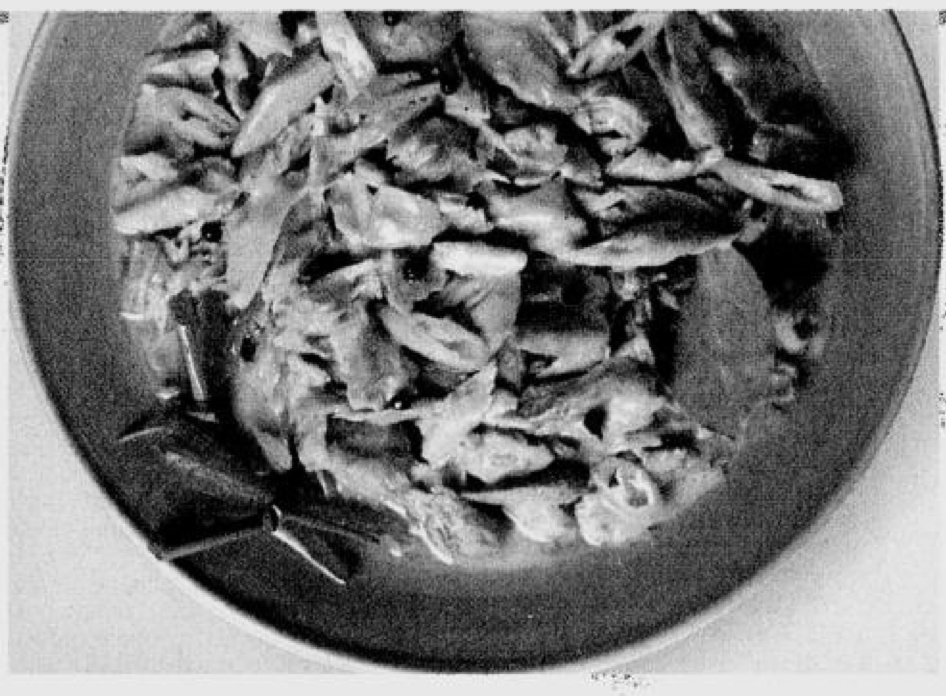

Good Friday.

Easter Sunday.

Why be good for just a day?

Century TUNA
Rich in Omega 3
FLAKES IN VEGETABLE OIL

From the first day of fasting to Easter celebration, Century Tuna brings you all the goodness of tuna! The meatiest, freshest tuna from the sea combined with the heart benefits of Omega 3 make Century Tuna the healthiest, most delicious choice any day.

Century Tuna Adobo sa Gata

Ingredients:

2	184 g cans	CENTURY TUNA SOLID IN OIL
1/4	cup	vinegar
2	tablespoons	soy sauce
4	tablespoons	chopped garlic
1	teaspoon	peppercorn, cracked
1	piece	bayleaf
1/2	cup	thick coconut cream

Procedure:
In a bowl, marinate tuna in vinegar, soy sauce, 2 tablespoons garlic, peppercorns and bayleaf. Leave for 30 minutes. Drain and reserve marinade. In a pan, heat oil from tuna and brown the remaining garlic. Add tuna and cook for a minute. Add the marinade, cook uncovered until liquid is reduced in half. Pour in the coconut cream and cook for a minute. Makes 6 servings.

For more delicious and healthy recipes, write to:
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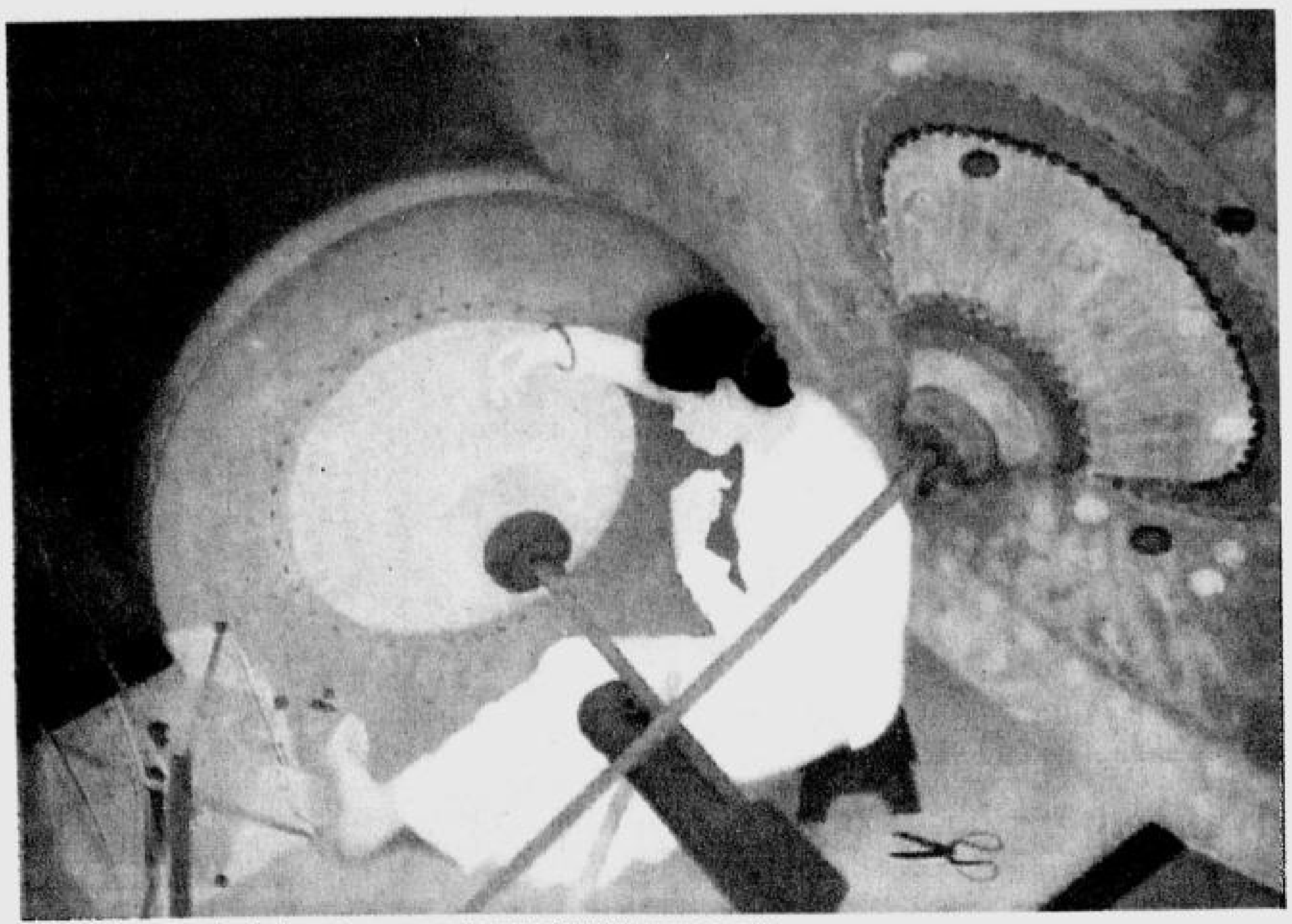
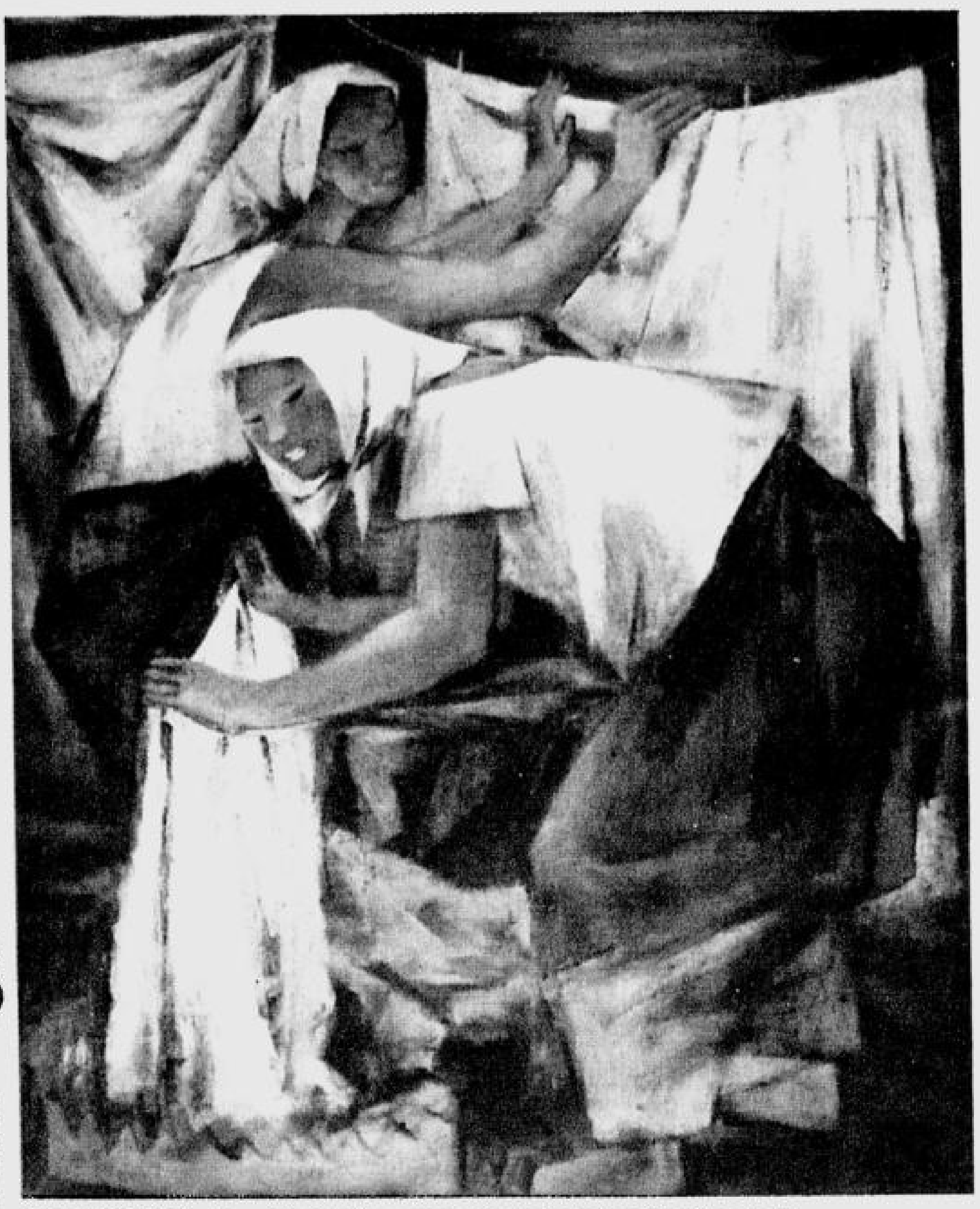


THERE is a growing interest among collectors for Vietnamese art.



THE DISTINCT style of Anita Magsaysay-Ho make her a favorite among international art collectors.

See you at Sotheby's

By Kitty Go

The venerable auction house has opened a Philippine office with the inimitable Kim Camacho as country representative

MANY suspect that Kim Camacho, country manager and representative of the Philippine office of international auction house Sotheby's, got her job because she is married to the country's Finance Secretary Lito Camacho. On the contrary, the Camachos have been serious art collectors for years and it was through her relationship with Sotheby's (even before Lito Camacho joined government) that she got the position. However, it wasn't as simple as a major auction house handing a position over to a client. And Sotheby's wasn't the only one in the picture.

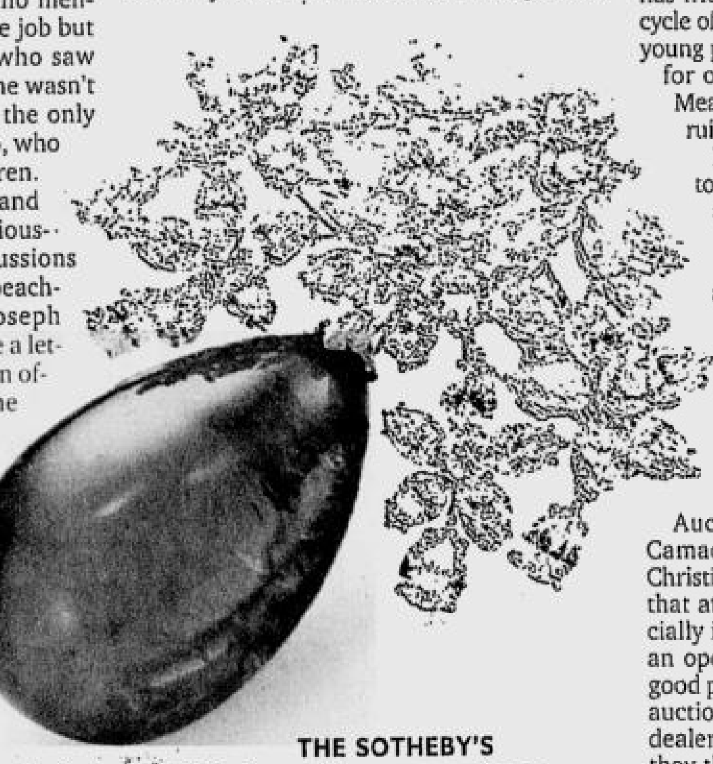
In August 2000, Mr. Camacho's banking job brought him and his family back to Manila from Singapore. Meanwhile, Ms Camacho never let go of her contact with the Singapore offices of Christie's and Sotheby's. Or rather the auction houses never let go of her as their client. The couple collects Asian paintings and Oriental artifacts. Ninety percent of their painting collection is by Filipinos and 10 percent is by other Asians. They also have several antique Persian rugs. Ms Camacho personally collects Ming funerary furniture and artifacts.

Christie's cringes

At a dinner in Manila hosted for Christie's by her friend, talk got into the possibility of opening a Manila office. Ms Camacho mentioned that she would like to take the job but the auction house representative, who saw her as a woman of leisure, thought she wasn't serious. "(Being in) Singapore was the only time I didn't work," says Ms Camacho, who has a Harvard degree and six children. Sometime in the fall of 2000, she and Christie's (now convinced of her seriousness and capability) resumed discussions about a Philippine office. But the impeachment trial of former President Joseph Estrada got in the way. "They sent me a letter saying they decided not to open an office for the time being because of the political situation," she recalls.

In January 2001, Esther Seet, managing director of Sotheby's Singapore, asked Ms Camacho to meet Henry Howard-Sneyd, then the new managing director of Sotheby's China and South East Asia. Howard-Sneyd, also the company's worldwide head for Asia art departments, believed that "the Philippines had always been a glaring gap in the Asian presence." After the first meeting in Singapore, Howard-Sneyd made up his mind. In an interview with the INQUIRER in Hong Kong, he recalls, "That got me to thinking very quickly. I knew that it was time to act...The political and economic situation was not so good but in the long term, Kim would be the perfect person so I decided to pursue (the opening of the Philippine office). As our discussions went on, Lito got promoted and promoted, but I chose Kim because of Kim." Ms Camacho qualifies Howard-Sneyd's statement by saying, "Unlike Christie's that looks at the territory and then looks for the person, (Sotheby's) works the other way around. They open when they find the right person."

TWICE a year, Sotheby's holds major sales in major metropolitan cities for collectibles like jewelry, watches, wine, paintings, furniture, etc.



THE SOTHEBY'S Philippines office sources pieces primarily for the Hong Kong jewelry and Singapore South East Asian paintings auctions.

The house opens

In April 2001, following successful interviews in London, Ms Camacho hosted dinners in Manila for 20 potential clients and Sotheby's, including Henry Howard-Sneyd. "I think he wanted to test what my connections were. He wanted to find out if I could bring in the big shots from Manila," she chuckles, looking back at last year's events.

On June 28, 2001, the Sotheby's Philippine representative office was formally launched with a cocktail for the movers and shakers who would make consignment and sales a success for the Sotheby's Philippine office. Mok Kim Chuan, the Singapore-based specialist in South East Asian Paintings, told the INQUIRER, "Kim is a great asset and help to Sotheby's. Being a collector herself, she is well known in the art circle and thus has great connections to private collectors."

Part of being successful in the auction market is discretion and knowing your customer. It is a business that requires strong business connections and even greater social skills. Ms Camacho has friends of several generations. The natural cycle of the business is that older people sell and young people buy. A deal the auction house gets for one client can yield recommendations. Meanwhile, indiscretion and dishonesty can ruin the house's name even faster.

Ms Camacho has a personal commitment to further the recognition of Filipino artists among international art collectors. She plans to gradually increase the number of pieces that will come out, thereby creating a wider international market for Filipino paintings. "The more developed that international market becomes, the greater the demand will be for Filipino paintings and the greater the demand will be, the more paintings we can put up," she explains.

It's a deal

Auctions seem intimidating but, says Ms Camacho, "The reason I became a client of Christie's and Sotheby's is that it occurred to me that at auction was the best way to buy especially if you are looking for value. I don't have an open budget so I always look at buying a good piece at the best possible price." When the auctioneer opens the bidding, it's usually the dealers who bid until they reach a price where they think they cannot resell at a profit. Then the privates (trade term for individuals) start bidding and they will not pay retail price, either. Prices go through the roof or set records only if the piece is so rare that there is no retail value. In most cases at auction, the buyer ends up paying less than retail and the seller ends up selling higher than if they sold through a dealer.

PIECES such as this from last year's sales in Hong Kong can now be bought through the Sotheby's Philippines office.

The advantage to a consignor is that he or she gets maximum exposure in a period of less than a week from viewing dates to sales date. The auction house gives a large number of interested parties catalogues and it is a very transparent market. The price will settle at the highest price that anyone in the market, who has access to the auction, is willing to pay. It turns out to be a very good deal for the buyer and the seller.

In less than six months, despite domestic and international political and business uncertainty, Ms Camacho, who hopes to continuously "refine and update" her client base, has made notable contributions to Sotheby's. Howard-Sneyd says, "Within this short period of time of Kim being with Sotheby's, she has successfully brought in a lot of business for our international auctions. Her business acumen and vigorous propagation of the Sotheby's brand is conspicuously shown to our prospective clients and I believe that the future is bright."

Upcoming Sotheby's auctions are:

South East Asian Paintings—Singapore: April 7
Wines—New York: April 13
Wines—London: April 17
Rolex Collection—Hong Kong: May 6
Important Watches and Ceramics—Hong Kong: May 7
Magnificent Jewels and Jadeite—Hong Kong: May 8

If you would like more information, catalogues or consignment details for future sales, call Kim Camacho at The Sotheby's Philippine Representative Office, (632)884-8241, fax (632)884-8242 or e-mail kim.camacho@sothebys.com

E-mail the author at styledowager@hotmail.com.

Fabulous gifts for the grads

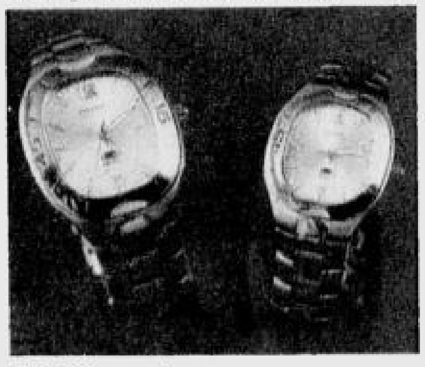
GRADUATION season is in the air and Robinsons Department Store (RDS) gives gift suggestions to make your loved one's long-awaited moment extra special.

Your son, nephew or brother would be delighted to receive a watch such as Fossil for a graduation present. RDS offers a wide selection of timepieces to match any wearer's style and personality.

A bottle of his favorite perfume is also a good gift idea. Stop by the perfumery section and choose from a wide array of scents for men such as those by Gap, Lacoste, Cool Water for Men and Hugo Dark Blue.

For your daughter, niece or best friend, mark that special occasion with a necklace or bracelet or a stylish bag. Perfumes and colognes from Victoria's Secret, Jessica McClintock, Cool Water for Women, Hugo Deep Red and Gap are also ideal gift choices.

RDS also has assorted picture frames to keep those graduation memories alive. If you're still undecided, giving RDS gift certificates is a good option so your loved one can choose what he truly fancies for the big day.



FOSSIL watches

PERFUMES from Jessica McClintock, Gap Close and Lacoste Booster

RDS branches are located at Robinsons Galleria, Robinsons Place Manila, Novaliches, Imus, Cebu, Bacolod and Iloilo, Robinsons Metro East, Robinsons Starmalls Pampanga, Tutuban Center, Starmall Shaw, Metropolis Star Alabang, Waltermart Sta. Rosa and Gen. Trias.

Heartwarming words of congratulations

FOR THIS important occasion, Hallmark Cards has put out a variety of graduation cards with special messages and serious, success-oriented and inspirational designs. For those who intend to give money as gifts, Hallmark Cards has also put out greeting cards that double as money-holders.

But graduates aren't the only ones who should be rewarded on that day. Parents and teachers, too, need to be appreciated for their part in the upbringing of students. Graduates should give thank-you cards and gifts to parents and teachers to express appreciation for their support during their years of education.

In addition, graduates can also exchange cards with each other to say "goodbye" or to serve as a remembrance of times shared in school. Hallmark greeting cards are available at all National Bookstore branches.

CABAHUG

BANGAYAN

Zonta Club holds musical show

THE ZONTA Club of Makati and Environs Foundation Inc. will hold the "Zonta Makati Musical Interlude 2002" today at 5 p.m. at the Santiago Hall of the Equitable PCI Bank Tower in Makati City.

The musical show features tenor Nolyn Cabahug, soprano Shirley Bangayan and dancers Maritoni Tordesillas and Lucas Jacinto. The Zonta Makati ladies will render a special performance. Musical director is Julie Deloso Mendoza.

Proceeds will go to Zonta's civic projects that benefit poor women and children.

KÉRASTASE
PARIS

Club Prestige & Oléo-Relax

The women of Kérastase Club Prestige were selected for their undeniable beauty, effortless elegance and evident grace both in their personal styles as well as personalities. Charming, feminine, and warm, all eight are Filipinas to envy. Now, thanks to the breakthrough Oléo-Relax system. Kerastase will guarantee they need never worry about bad hair days again.

While she's known more for her work on the runway, **Apples Aberin** has smartly crossed over careers to being the one who calls the shots behind the scenes. Apples, together with another former catwalk queen Tweetie de Leon, sits as editor of the biannual bridal bible Bride & Home, and although she still does the runway bit for designer friends once in a while, she has become, in her own words, "obsessive about putting a magazine together."

It might take a lot of hard work and may demand a lot of time away from her family but **Apples** says it's given her a fulfillment entirely different from the ones she gets at home and from designers and fashion audiences. "When brides from all over give us feedback that they were able to use our tips, apply our suggestions, that means you got your message across. What you did was able to make someone happy."

Tricia Cu-Unjieng considers herself as more of a devoted mom to her three boys. While she is more known to Manila's society watchers as the muse to Manila's top couture designers, "Im more of a full-time mom than anything." she says. She wakes up mid-morning to tend to her two-year old, then brings her two other boys to school and taekwondo classes. While she also takes care of a small balloon and party business, it is her family that is her first priority.

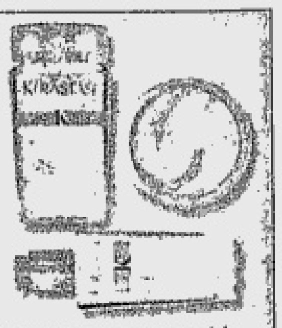
"I am continuously inspired by my kids. I try to be a really good mom to them, uphold moral values, and be a friend to them." Tricia is the wife of People Asia editor Philip and the daughter of the late jeweler philanthropist Fe Panlilio.

There is no career more "it girl" fabulous than that owned by **Ines Delgado**. At 25, she owns a fashion boutique filled with precious flirty finds at the heart of Manila's boheme Malate. She also holds a post at the Asia Society, a non-profit organization where she puts together cultural and educational projects. "What inspires me is being with people who appreciate not just the beauty but hard work as well," she says. **Ines** is used to the whirlwind lifestyle. In six years, she's lived in Italy, London, New York, and Colorado where she took up her Art History studies. "More than anything, I love design, creativity -- a certain aesthetic," she says. When she opened her boutique in Manila, she knew exactly what she wanted. "I want to offer everything a woman needs living in the tropics."

"To give Manila one good try as an adult." That's what **Geni Psinakis** is here for. That is why, after spending twenty years of her twenty-six in the United States and travelling the world she is back to her roots.

Tame Rebellous Hair

Kérastase Oléo-Relax



Sometimes, hair becomes so dry and unmanageable, you can almost say it's rebellious. Well, not anymore. Introducing **Oléo-Relax**, a new system from leading salon hair care brand Kérastase that smoothens and disciplines dry and unmanageable hair. Oléo-Relax is a new and breakthrough system especially made for women who have problems with their dry, thick, and rebellious hair. Its three-step line includes a smoothing shampoo, a relaxing masque, and controlling care formula. The first step shampoo, **Oléo-Relax Bath**, is a unique association of nourishing and smoothening oils combined with a long lasting anti-frizz protection complex for soft, smooth, and supple hair. The Oléo-Relax Bath is followed by the **Oléo-Relax Masque**. This combination of Shorea and Palm Oils, with highly nourishing properties, allows for immediate smoothening of the hair cuticle. Finally, **Oléo-Relax Controlling Care**, with specially selected soluble silicone derivatives provides a long lasting anti-frizz effect to particularly dry and uncontrollable hair. So quell the rebellion with Kérastase Oléo-Relax -- for easy detangling, soft supple hair that makes blow-drying and styling easier, long-lasting frizz control, and smoothness with a soft, silky touch.

With a look that's as exotic and sensual as the country her restaurant pays homage to ("The sun is so strong, the beautiful sea, the warmth of the people," she raves.) **Geni** is also one of the prettiest faces Manila society has seen of late. While she regrets the fact that she is not able to work out as much as she used to, her work in her restaurant Mati is, in some strange way, keeping her fit. "I'm now a restauranteur every waking hour," she says. "I am averaging four hours of sleep a day."

"As you grow older and wiser, you realize you don't need so much anymore in your life," says **Susan Reyes** when asked what kind of material luxuries she likes to indulge in. Wrong question to ask a very accomplished, very confident, gorgeously smart woman like her. Of course, she takes care of herself. She tries to get as much sleep as she can, never goes to bed without washing her face, she moisturizes day and night, goes to a hair treatment once a week, but that's that.

Formerly in the real estate business, **Susan** these days is busy setting up a service-oriented business that will start operation anytime this year. Besides that, she takes care of her health, exercising regularly -- Pilates, treadmill, a weight-training program, and ballroom dancing. She also travels regularly, her favorite places in the world being Isla Naburot in the Guimaras Island, and "any city in Europe." Need a formula for endurance? Live the life the way this woman does.

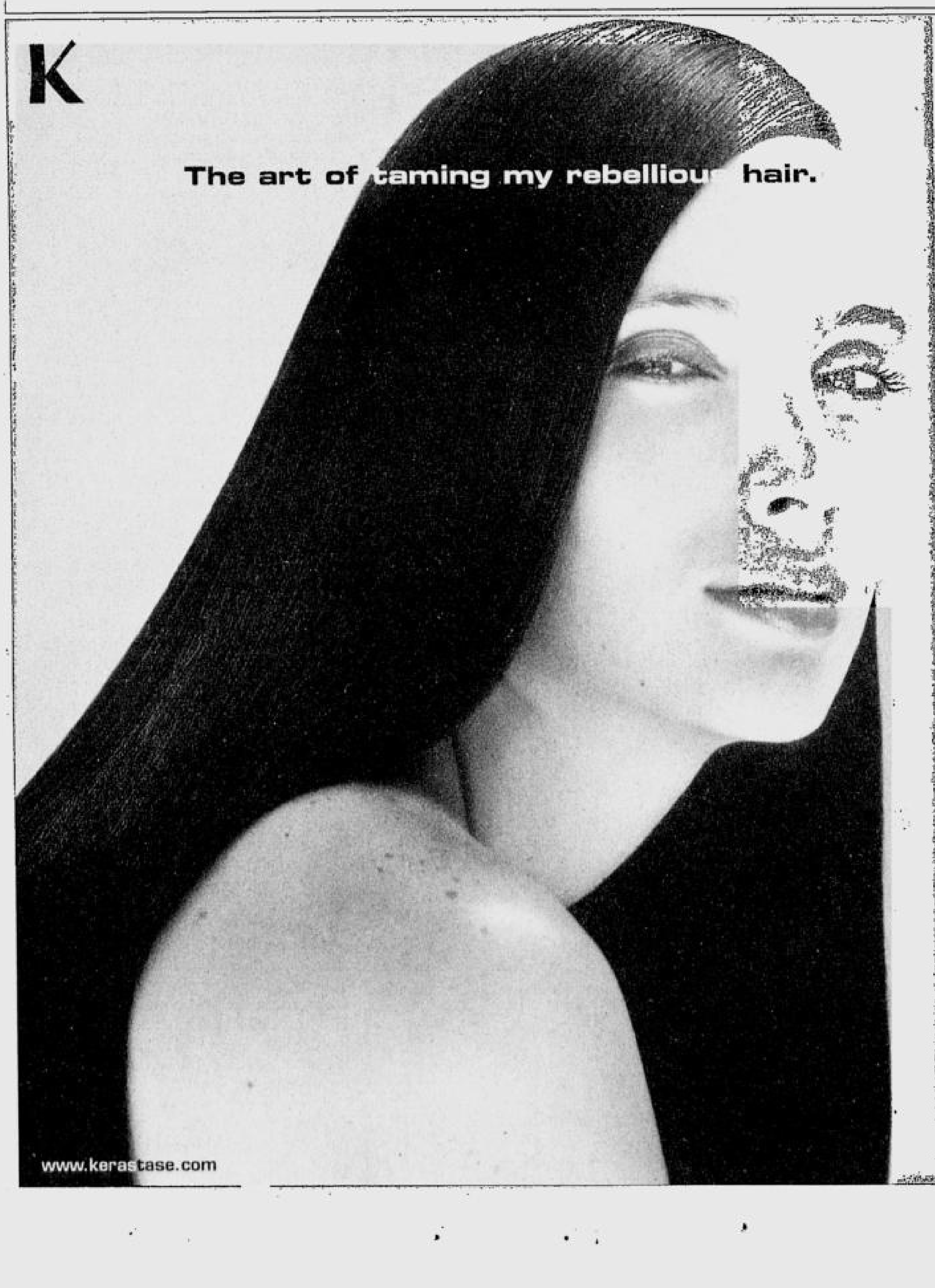
At 22, **Nicole Schulze** has her entire life ahead of her. She doesn't need to rush and yet this lady has this perennial itch to do something when the last to-do has been accomplished. "I can't stand being bored," she says. "Especially during the day." Now at her last semester as a college senior at the University of Asia and the Pacific, this Marketing and Communications student shuttles from school to her modelling jobs armed with her books and notes so she won't spend the whole shoot just looking at the ceiling.

When she's off school and without a shoot to go to, she finds herself either walking her two miniature Schnauzers and reading anything and everything: Tolkien, non fiction, Reader's Digest. Unlike girls her age, she doesn't like spending nights out in the bar and would rather do a weekend at the beach -- she loves the water. For a girl so young , she seems to know exactly what she wants: her boyfriend of four years, a year's break after graduation, and quality time with abandoned children that her family sponsors at the Chosen Children.

Carla Sibal, as most of the fashion world knows, is the designer behind the label Baghera, the line of classic and very feminine ready-to-wear that embodies not just the characteristics of women she wants to dress but Carla's style as well. After taking courses at the St. Martin's School of Arts in London and finishing a degree in Fine Arts at Parsons in Paris, Carla joined Rustan's as designer and eventually launched her own label. "Women in general influence me," says Carla. "They tell me their needs and their frustrations. And these inspire me to meet their needs."

These days **Carla** has taken over his father's textbook publishing business which is increasingly taking a lot of her time. This very classy lady, however, sees to it she continues to attend to her role as a mom to an 8-year old son.

Perhaps the most stunning among Manila's current crop of young things, **Bea Valdes** is probably one of the few who really, truly fits the bill. Blessed with a beautiful face -- often bare of make-up -- that has graced a number of commercials during her younger days, a lean figure (thanks to Pilates) that is the look of the moment, this 28-year old studies Creative Writing and eventually shifted to Industrial Design in the University of the Philippines and pursued further studies in the arts in London. **Bea** is currently an interior designer and does accessories on the side. She also writes a column for People Asia. What inspires her? "People who have a great sense of wonder." One look at **Bea's** stunning eyes, you'd know she has loads of that, too.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The art of taming my rebellious hair.
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MUST-HAVE MEN'S FASHION—Hedi Slimane for Dior. This will be available in April at Homme et Femme boutique

Dior designer revolutionizes men's fashion wear

T'NT TRENDS & TRENDINGS

Anton San Diego

MUST-HAVE men's fashion—Hedi Slimane for Christian Dior. Just when you wanted to give up on men's fashion in Manila (think: boring khakis and polo shirts, except Tyler), a savior in the form of **Hedi Slimane** for Dior comes along. He has become the hottest designer of men's fashion and everyone's must-have and gauge for the ultimate in trendy and hip fashion.

Slimane, who first designed for YSL four years ago, is in his second year designing for Dior, and the praises and accolades keep streaming in. He has been credited with giving spice and life to men's fashion in the last years with his sexy, slim silhouette, narrow shoulders and long torso.

There has never been a revolution in men's fashion like this in a long time. The last was when Armani restructured the suit in the '80s. In the usual seen-that-done-that world of international designers, Lagerfeld and Yves Saint Laurent are his fans.

Will men's fashion in Manila change? Homme et Femme, the favorite boutique of Manila's best-dressed, acquired recently the line and will have a "by appointment" event on April 3. For further information and reservations, call 633-7009. Homme et Femme is located at 3/F Shangri-La Plaza Mall.

Must-have color for women—white. If you are looking for a color trend for Spring/Summer 2002, then look no further because white is it! Most designers showed white as the new black, gray, hot pink and orange (These were the colors of the past few years).

LOOKING for the correct color to wear this summer? White is it!

This is a sure-fire way to update your wardrobe as it symbolizes freshness, crispness, purity and innocence, and is a classic.

The trick here is not to wear just one color, but to combine it with different textures, patterns and colors as well. You will not only look good but make your dry cleaners happy, too. Just stay away from red wine.

Calvin Klein underwear. Does size really matter? In recent years, Calvin Klein has changed how we view men's bodies and the stereotype of the male as a macho, invincible entity. When Marky Mark (who's now known as **Mark Wahlberg**) appeared in Calvin Klein ads sans shirt, parading his buffed body, it gave men the chance to become sex objects like women. Calvin Klein spinmeisters likewise touched a nerve by showing that men need to get on with the program.

Fast forward to 2002. Calvin Klein releases a new redesigned underwear called The Body. It is compared to the women's wonder bra for lift and is a great way to showcase their assets (or lack of it) to the max. Men can go to the gym but in that area, it's either God-given or in the genes. (Blame your dad and grandpa if you just don't measure up.) Pinoys, who are not as hefty as the Europeans and Americans, have some filling up to do. Okay, not all. You must not only have a great body, but an even better package!

In New York, a massive poster of the ad has caused quite a backlash. Maybe it's because many men can't seem to measure up, and all of a sudden the focus is no longer the body but the private parts. Whatever the response, the one laughing all the way to the bank must be dear old Calvin Klein and his discovery du jour, male model Travis, who was plucked out of obscurity from his native Australia. He came to New York with $60 in his pocket and now he has a million-dollar ad campaign. Hoisted to celebrity status, he has free lifetime supply of underwear and is now the envy of many men.

TV junkies. I am a confessed TV junkie. Many think that all media people love to party and stay out till the wee hours of the morning. Not me. I'd rather watch TV or a video or read books and magazines. Much to my surprise, one dinner I met some people who were like me. We ended up laughing at all the shows starting with WINS TV, a Japanese station which features a Filipina. She is hilarious.

From our conversation, I found out that the lady's cameraman is her husband and he would shoot her eating wasabe and "*hang hang*," riding the roller coaster, screaming her head off and having a pedicure, "*Alam nyo ito* and first time *ko magpa*-pedicure." Then the focus shifts to her feet. They really look like a fun couple, but I hope all their camera antics stop there and do not go the route of Pamela and Tommy's infamous videos.

Since the onslaught of reality TV, my favorites have been AXN's "Fear Factor" and "Amazing Race." "Survivor" ranks high, but I can never get to watch it. I wish it will be part of AXN. "Fear Factor" has been my favorite lately because of certain obstacles they have to go through, such as eating bugs or lying with rats or snakes.

I don't watch E! channel, not as often as I want to because to get to Channel 64 you have to get through a lot of rubbish. So once I get to Animal Planet, which is channel 39, I just go back. SkyCable has been a disappointment since it terminated contracts with Star TV and National Geographic. Many have moved to rival cable channels for the sports features.

If I would give awards to certain channels, the saddest channel award would go to the one that replays all the golf and tennis matches. The cheesiest channel would be Solar, which runs the lowest B movies.

Even if it's hard to admit, I enjoy some movies on the Pinoy channel, complete with all that *sampalan*, shouting, silly and inane story lines. The most classic is "Temptation Island (Pinoy version)." I'm sure you guys know this movie. For those who don't, it's about beauty queens who get shipwrecked in an island. **Deborah Sun** as the maid was hilarious! This was definitely way ahead of "Priscilla, Queen of the Desert"! The film ends with the rescue of the beauty queens and the staging of the pageant.

I hope the channel can dig up other favorites: "Dance 'o Rama," "Wonder Vi" and "Supergirl," which starred Pinky, who fought a giant frog.

E-mail the author at asd_world@hotmail.com

SUMMER STRIPES

DRAMA

Stripes is a key look this summer. **Mendrez** has interpreted this look in horizontal and multicolor striped tote bags. Match these bags with the sexiest sandals in hot pink and aqua blue for the hottest summer look.

Drama. Ever wonder why old movies evoke a dramatic atmosphere? Black and white color is the secret. Black is Back. And so is White! **Mendrez** has interpreted this hot, hot look in beautifully matched black and white bags and sexy sandals.

M
MENDREZ

Nautical. Hit the beach with Red, White and Blue. Nautical bags available in red, navy and white matched with the most comfortable mules in the hottest colors of red, navy and white. Get this hot, hot look only from **Mendrez.**

Spring Blooms. This is a fresh range. Think and Feel Spring! Soft pink and powder blue bags matched with woven multicolor cork-soled sandals for the freshest look only at **Mendrez.**

NAUTICAL STRIPES

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IMMEDIATE HIRING

SERVICE MANAGER

A reputable, growth-oriented service Company invites highly motivated, assertive, and result-oriented candidates with the following qualifications:

- Male, 40 years old and above
- Engineering graduate
- Licensed Mechanical Engineer would be an advantage
- Must have at least 3 years experience with a cleaning company or in hotel housekeeping
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- Accomplished in both written and verbal communication
- Computer literate

Attractive compensation package awaits the successful candidate.

Please send your resumé with a recent photo to:

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Classified Ads Division
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#636 T.M. Kalaw Street
Ermita, Manila
E-mail: jm1@inquirer.com.ph
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A growing Christian school in Pasig City needs highly-competent teachers for

Pre-school Language and Reading Math

Qualifications:

- must be a born-again Christian
- graduate of B.S. Early Childhood Education; B.S. Elementary Education
- passed the Licensure Examination for Teachers (LET) or at least about to take the LET on August 2002

Applicants must submit the following:

- resumé including 3 character references from school and/or office
- transcript of records
- two letters of recommendation
- letter of endorsement from the pastor
- LET rating, if applicable

Send the requirements to:

**THE DIRECTRESS
P.O. Box 13469
Ortigas Center Post Office
1605 Pasig City**

EASTERN TELECOMS

Eastern Telecommunications Philippines, Inc. is a full service company providing a wide range of services from data, voice and Internet products. Eastern Telecoms was founded in 1870. And since the old days of telegraph services until the Internet services of today, we have maintained a reputation for quality service and excellent customer care.

Our Company is looking for Caring, Responsible and Dynamic individuals to participate in a worthwhile relationship we wish to offer:

ENGINEER TRAINING PROGRAM

We are in need of a new breed of Electronics and Communications Engineering graduates and would like to invite you to apply and take part of our **Engineer Training Program** for 2002. In this program, we train engineers to become leaders in the field of telecommunications focusing on the following technologies:

- Internet
- Synchronous Digital Hierarchy (SDH)
- Microwave Transmission
- Fiber Optics
- Switching Systems
- Gigabit Ethernet
- Digital Subscriber Line (DSL)

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Responsible for maintaining, managing and expanding the organization's business relationships with existing customers and exploring new business opportunities with the end view of delivering the sales targets established for the year.

Requirements:

- Ideal candidate must be a graduate of any 4 year course preferably in Business Administration, Marketing, Electronics & Communications Engineering or Computer Science
- Must have at least 2 years sales experience
- Excellent customer service orientation and positive sales attitude
- Ability to deal with people at all levels
- Good communication skills
- Dynamic, creative, assertive, energetic and results-driven

Candidates from other industries such as banking, hospitality, consumer, manufacturing, applications providers, IT vendors among others are most welcomed.

If you think you are qualified to join our dynamic Company, please send your resume with 2x2 photo and transcript of records to:

The Vice President
Human Resources & Administration Department
6th Floor Telecoms Plaza Building, 316 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue,
Salcedo Village, Makati City
or e-mail us at:recruitment-hrd@etpi.com.ph

ENZI CORPORATION

Financial Management Services Company

We need the following immediately:

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Business graduate, major in Accounting; Computer literate

COMPUTER PROGRAMMERS

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At least Second Year College; Can drive four wheel or two wheel vehicles

ENCODERS

Proficient in computer operations;College graduate

SECRETARY/RECEPTIONIST

College graduate; Computer literate

We offer highly competitive compensation packages. If you are hardworking, willing to work long hours, honest and with good personality, join our organization.

Apply in person at:
ENZI CORPORATION
10th Floor One San Miguel Avenue Tower, Shaw Boulevard, San Miguel Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City
Tel. No. 687-5556

RADIAN Consulting, Inc.

1812 Herrera Tower, Herrera cor. Valero Sts.,
Salcedo Village, Makati City 1227

RADIAN, a 100% Filipino owned independent, multidisciplinary Engineering and Earth Sciences company, seeks highly qualified and motivated individuals to fill-up our present Manpower Pooling for our future and prospective projects:

	CONSULTANT's DISCIPLINE	CODE
1	Construction Project Manager	CPM
2	Resident Engineer (Inspection; QA or QC)	RE
3	Contracts Specialist	CS
4	Cost/Quantity Engineer	COST
5	Structural Engineer/Geotechnical/Geodetic Engineers	SGG
6	Highway/Roads Design Engineer	HR
7	Drainage/ Flood Control/ Irrigation Engineers	DFCI
8	Water/Sanitation Design Engineer	WS
9	Electro Mechanical Design Engineer	EM
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13	Sociologist	SOCIO
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If you are a Consultant with an expertise with one of the disciplines listed above, please send to us your comprehensive Curriculum Vitae indicating the Code of the discipline you would like to be categorized.

Candidates with Computer capabilities are highly preferable. We are looking for Consultants that are literate with the following computer programs: Primavera, Expedition, AutoCivil, WaterCad, and Microsoft Office Applications. Please send your resume to RADIAN Consulting, Inc., 1812 Herrera Tower, Herrera cor. Valero Sts., Salcedo Village, Makati City or e-mail to radian@radian.com.ph indicating in the Subject line the following; Attention: Ms. Lowelle Sibunga, Personnel Division.

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Brilliant Art Director needed...BADLY!

If you're a female Art Director with 3 or more years of agency experience and a portfolio that dazzles, fax your resumé to *The Advertising Agency at 636-7063*

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING!!!

Importer / Distributor urgently needs:

SALES MANAGER

- With sufficient background in sales, forecasting, and planning
- At least 2 years experience in dealing with supermarkets, CVS, groceries, and other retail channel
- Must have good leadership qualities to handle sales representatives and staff
- Must be highly motivated and action-oriented
- Good oral and written communication skills

SALES REPRESENTATIVES

- Must have at least 2 years experience in selling semi-perishable consumer goods to supermarkets, CVS, groceries, and other retail channel
- Must be highly motivated and action-oriented
- Good oral and written communication skills

For qualified candidates, please call **NYMFA** at **812-3601 to 06.**

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PHILAM LIFE · PHILAM INSURANCE · PHILAM PLANS · PHILAM BANK · AIG American International Credit Card Company Philippines, Inc.
PHILAM CARE · PHILAM PROPERTIES · PHILAM ASSET MANAGEMENT · PHILAM SYSTEMS

BUILDING OPERATIONS MANAGER

Will be responsible for the technical operations of all Philamlife buildings nationwide. Preferably PME or PEE with 5-7 years' engineering experience in high-rise buildings. Must have Chief Engineer background, preferably coming from a 5-star hotel. With strong background in fire life safety systems and computerized energy management systems. Should be experienced in implementing preventive maintenance program.

TECHNICAL SUPPORT ENGINEER

Will be responsible for maintaining building electro-mechanical systems and controls, attending to emergency repairs and troubleshooting and monitoring of outsourced maintenance contractors . ME or ECE with at least 3 years' experience. Familiar with machineries and equipment in a hotel or high-rise building.

INVESTMENT ANALYST

With 2-3 years' experience in finance, business development or corporate planning. Preferably knowledgeable of real estate development, conduct of feasibility studies and cash flow analysis. Economics or Business Administration graduate from a reputable school. MBA units will be an advantage. Proficient in MS Office applications and with excellent communication skills.

3 ACTUARIAL ANALYSTS / ASSISTANT

21-30 years old; Math or Statistics graduates. Will be tasked to conduct actuarial valuation and studies of pensions, group insurance and pre-need products. Must have at least 2 years of related work experience or if fresh graduate, must belong to top 15% of graduating batch. Must have excellent numerical and analytical abilities. Highly computer literate.

3 ACCOUNTING ASSISTANTS / STAFF

20-25 years old, Accounting graduates. For the Assistant position, must be a CPA and preferably with 1-2 years' work experience in general accounting or audit. Must be articulate and highly computer literate.

CREDIT OFFICERS / ANALYSTS

Not over 25 years old, business degree holders from reputable schools. With at least a year of experience in credit evaluation and analysis of consumer loans such as personal loans.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT: www.ephilam.com

COMPENSATION & BENEFITS OFFICER

23-28 years old. Computer Science, MIS or Industrial Engineering graduate. Will be tasked to conduct compensation and benefits studies and handle payroll functions. Must have experience in handling computerized HR information systems. Experience in systems administration is a definite advantage. Must exhibit above average numerical and analytical abilities, proficiency in the use of computer and fluency in oral and written English communication.

2 TRAINING OFFICERS

23-28 years old; Psychology or Behavioral Science graduates. Will design and conduct management and supervisory behavioral training programs and evaluate training results. With at least 2 years of experience in handling teambuilding, vision deployment and customer service programs, preferably gained from a financial institution. Exposure to recruitment, organizational development and other HR functions is an advantage. Dynamic, creative, articulate and with excellent platform and interpersonal skills. Proficient in the use of MS Office applications and multimedia equipment.

2 SALES TRAINORS (Manila / Iloilo)

22-28 years old. Graduates of business or social sciences. Will design and conduct training programs for agency managers and agents. Teaching or training experience is warranted. Must possess excellent facilitation skills. Computer literate. Applicants for the province must be Iloilo-based or willing to relocate.

4 NURSES / LIAISON OFFICERS

Not over 28 years old, registered Nurse. Preferably with at least 6 months of related experience. Must exhibit positive interpersonal and communication skills. Willing to work long hours. Highly motivated and diligent.

2 MEDICAL TECHNOLOGISTS

Not over 28 years old, graduates of Medical Technology, licensed. With 1-2 years of hospital or clinical experience. With effective communication and interpersonal skills. Willing to work long hours. Computer literate, patient and organized.

LICENSED X-RAY TECHNOLOGIST

22-28 years old, graduate of Radiologic Technology, licensed. With experience in ultrasonography. Proficient in MS Office applications.

MARKETING OFFICERS / ASSISTANTS
(Manila / Davao)

20-28 years old, graduates of Marketing, Management or Communication Arts. Will be tasked with product/market development, training, advertising and promotions, sales and after-sales service. Experience gained from insurance companies is a plus. Must possess excellent command of the English language, confidence in speaking in front of a group and positive interpersonal skills. Willing to travel and do fieldwork.

SALES OFFICERS / CONSULTANTS

Not more than 28 years old, graduates of Marketing or business courses from reputable universities. Must have 2 -3 years' experience in selling any of the following products:

- bank deposit / term bank products or similar financial products
- club shares or sales experience in the hotel industry
- consumer durables (appliances or computers)

Ideally with proven network of clients. Must exhibit excellent communication and interpersonal skills. Should be highly customer-oriented.

CUSTOMER SERVICE REP / TELLERS

Not more than 28 years old, female, business course graduates from leading colleges/universities. Must have well-developed communication skills, pleasing personality and customer service orientation. Computer literate. Fresh graduates are welcome. Chinese-speaking applicants will be considered for Binondo branch.

FIELD CREDIT INVESTIGATORS

Not more than 25 years old, graduate of a 4-year business course. Must know how to drive a motorcycle and holder of a valid driver's license. Previous experience in credit investigation and appraisal is an advantage.

We will offer competitive compensation and benefits packages to the right candidates. Please send your resumés, transcript of records and photos to the indicated address. Please indicate the position you are applying for if you are sending your resume via e-mail at Philamlife-HR.Recruitment@aig.com.

CORPORATE HR
PO Box 2167, Manila, Philippines

Rustan's

IS IN IMMEDIATE NEED OF TOP CALIBER INDIVIDUALS

HUMAN RESOURCES SPECIALISTS

- Female, at least 26 years old
- Graduate of Business Management or any Social Science course, preferably with inclinations in business
- Minimum of one (1) year experience in human resources
- With strong leadership qualities, high initiative and organizational skills
- Must have the potential to work in all areas of HR with minimum supervision
- Must be people-oriented, mature, analytical and highly motivated
- Must be able to adapt to a fast working environment
- Proficient in English communication and computer programs

DESIGNERS

- At least 25 years old
- Graduate of Industrial/Interior Design or any fashion-related course
- Must have at least (2) two years work experience in the same capacity
- Must possess a pleasing and dynamic personality
- Must be computer literate

MERCHANDISE MANAGERS

- At least 25 years old
- Graduate of a 4-year business related course, preferably with an MBA or Fashion Merchandising degree
- With at least two (2) years work experience in the retail business in the same capacity
- Must have excellent oral and written communication skills
- Must be analytical, results-oriented, artistic, creative and with good fashion sense
- Must possess a pleasing and dynamic personality
- Must be computer literate

RETAIL MANAGER

- Male, at least 25 years old
- Graduate of a (4) four-year degree course
- Preferably with work experience in boutique operations
- With strong leadership and excellent communication skills
- Highly presentable results-oriented, proficient in computers
- Willing to work on weekends and holidays

RUSTAN'S HEAD OFFICE
Human Resources & Organization Development Division
G/F, El Mercasol Building, EDSA, Mandaluyong City

(Only qualified applicants will be scheduled for an interview)

A LEADING MARKETING COMPANY ENGAGED IN NATIONWIDE DISTRIBUTION OF CONSUMER PRODUCTS, IS IN URGENT NEED OF TOP CALIBER INDIVIDUALS TO FILL-UP THE FOLLOWING POSITIONS:

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☑ Male or female
☑ Graduate of Engineering IT or Management with Systems Literacy
☑ Must have warehousing operations experience in a managerial capacity
☑ Must be computer literate
☑ Must have excellent oral and written communication skills
☑ Must possess a pleasing and dynamic personality

FINANCE OFFICER

☑ Male or female
☑ Graduate of Accounting/CPA
☑ Preferably with experience on auditing
☑ Must possess an analytical mind
☑ Must have an impeccable integrity and good moral character

INSTITUTIONAL ACCOUNTS MANAGER

☑ Male or female
☑ Graduate of a 4-year business-related course
☑ Preferably with experience in a direct/retail selling environment
☑ Preferably with experience in distributing consumer products
☑ Creative and with excellent communication skills

DUE TO THE URGENCY OF THE NEED, QUALIFIED APPLICANTS ARE REQUESTED TO SEND IMMEDIATELY THEIR COMPREHENSIVE RESUMÉ, TRANSCRIPT OF RECORDS AND A RECENT 2X2 PHOTO TO:

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Classified Ads Division
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☐ With experience in retail specifically concession management
☐ Should have experience in monitoring store inventory according to sales targets
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☐ Should be able to institute strict guidelines in reporting
☐ With knowledge in merchandise display.

All interested applicants, please submit your resumé and picture to:

P.O. Box 1725 Quezon City Central Post Office
NIA Road, Diliman, Quezon City 1157

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GIS ANALYST
GIS TECHNICAL ASSISTANT

Individuals who have excellent oral and written communication skills and have at least 2 years experience in the marketing and development of Information Systems, and corporate financial management, preferably CPA, may apply for the following positions:

MARKETING MANAGER
FINANCE MANAGER

Individuals who have noteworthy educational as well as professional background and experience in the field of business may apply for the following positions:

HR ASSISTANT
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT
RECEPTIONIST
ACCOUNTING STAFF
ADMINISTRATIVE COORDINATOR
MARKETING ASSISTANT

WE WELCOME FRESH GRADUATES!

Personally apply at 3102-C East Tower, PSE Ctr. (Tektite Towers), Ortigas Ctr., Pasig City or send your resume to hr@geospatial.com.ph. Only qualified applicants will be called for an interview.

WANTED

for immediate employment by a food manufacturing company

MARKETING MANAGER

- Male, at least 30 years old
- College graduate
- With at least 3 years experience in marketing
- Good in oral and written communications
- Fluent in english and tagalog

SALES EXECUTIVES

- Male, 23-30 years old
- College graduate
- Good in oral and written communications
- Fluent in english and tagalog
- With drivers license
- Hardworking

Send or bring complete resumé with 2"x2" photo and credentials to:

Creative Commodities Corporation
2nd Floor Village Mall,
Commonwealth Avenue,
Fairview, Quezon City
(In front of Fairview, Wet Market)
from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. only

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The Company

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- **Sr. Software Architect/Lead Developer**

The candidate will be responsible for the design, development, building, configuration, integration, testing and operation of custom programming projects systems, including in-house and third party software components.

The candidate must be experienced software professional who may have had a role as leading software professional in a software development or professional services team, ideally within a global company. He/she must be able to work across cultures and provide direct, confident and reliable advice to senior technical leads and project managers. The candidate must demonstrate a **proven track record of 5 to 10+ years** of his/her ability to: a) prepare project plans and design software modules architecture; b) provide technical guidance to the development team; c) assist in preparing proposals for customer solutions; d) design and develop web-based large scale B2B applications using Java, C/C++, Unix shell scripts, PL/SQL, UML, or other similar tools and technologies; e) use of system configuration management and version control tools; f) design, develop and administer system based on relational database management software; g) expert use of Object Oriented approach to System and application modeling, design and development; and h) convey both orally and written design solutions to team members both co-located and across distance and cultural differences

The Opportunities and the Person

- **Program Manager**

As the customer advocate to the team, the program manager is responsible for understanding customer requirements, creating the business case, establishing the shared project vision between team and customer, and ensuring that any solution that the team develops meets the needs of the customer by solving their particular business problem. As the team advocate to the customer, the program manager is responsible for high-level communications including public relations, briefings to senior management/ customers, marketing to users, demonstrations, product launches and managing customer expectations. Managing expectations is the key role of program management once the vision is set. He will develop, maintain, and carry out the business case and drive feature identification and prioritisation. The candidate must have 10 years experience in IT development including 5 years in a project or management position.

The Rewards

We offer ample opportunities for people to grow with the company. A competitive remuneration package will be provided to the successful candidate.

To Apply

Submit by mail, fax or e-mail, your comprehensive resume, with your latest 2"x2" picture and expected salary/benefits package, no later than March 31, 2002 to :

Attention: Ms. Cecille P. Ibay
GE Global Exchange Services
22/F Oledan Square, 6788 Ayala Ave., Makati City
Fax No: (632) 886-7183
E-mail: cecille.ibay@gxs.ge.com

Only shortlisted candidates will be notified.

An Equal Opportunity Employer

GE Philippines

BISMAC

A long established distributing company with offices nationwide is looking for:

PRODUCT MANAGER

- Graduate of advance degree in Marketing, Business Administration or Economics, preferably with some background in Finance
- Excellent communication and management skills and computer literate
- At least 5 years experience in higher sales, working management with account executives and supervisors reporting to him/her
- Can develop strategic marketing plan, product development and forecasting ability
- Preferably but not necessary with hands-on experience in business machines, banking equipment
- Willing to travel and start ASAP

MRSD/BUDGET STAFF

- Female, single not more than 30 years old with pleasing personality and of good moral character
- Graduate of any business course with accounting background
- With good analytical skills and above average scholastic records
- Familiar with Windows 98, MS Office and any database software

PROGRAMMERS

- Not over 30 years old
- Fast learner, willing to travel and can work long hours
- Proficient in database concept and with one year experience in VB6 (including SQL, ADO, RDO, DAO)
- Knowledge in Windows API (including TAPI & MAPI) and various encryption techniques a definite advantage

SALES EXECUTIVE

- Male or Female, 21 years old and above
- Graduate of any business or computer course
- Excellent communication skills and willing to learn
- An advantage if with knowledge in selling POS/ECR machines, banking equipment or selling to Government Accounts

Interested applicants may send their Application Letter, 2x2 picture and Curriculum Vitaé or may apply personally at:

BUSINESS MACHINES CORPORATION
Carson Bldg., Orense cor. Del Carmen Sts.
Guadalupe Nuevo, Makati City
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GM

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We are in need of topnotch personnel to fill up the below ***"seconded"*** to GM positions immediately!

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Knowledge and Experience:

- ⇨ CPA, not more than 40 years old.
- ⇨ Must have held the same or similar position gained in a multinational company
- ⇨ With extensive experience in all fields of Accounting
- ⇨ Wide knowledge in financial compliance to governmental requirements
- ⇨ Must be computer literate and experience in **SAP** will definitely be an advantage

Competencies:

- ⇨ Good organizational and management skills
- ⇨ Positive working attitude and analytical mind
- ⇨ Excellent in time management
- ⇨ Self-motivated with a strong commitment and drive to deliver
- ⇨ Able to relate well with others at all levels

SENIOR / JUNIOR ACCOUNTANTS Code: SA or JA

Knowledge and Experience:

- ⇨ Must be a CPA
- ⇨ Must have at least 2 (JA) / 4 (SA) years of work experience in the same or similar position gained from a reputable company
- ⇨ Strong skills in general and financial accounting with extensive exposure to financial analysis and account reconciliation
- ⇨ Must be computer literate and preferably with experience in **SAP** systems.

Competencies:

- ⇨ Hardworking, flexible and resourceful
- ⇨ Capable of working under pressure
- ⇨ Keen on details
- ⇨ Self-motivated with a strong commitment and drive to deliver
- ⇨ Ability and willingness to work beyond office hours

Please send your application documents with contact numbers, and recent 2x2 photo to address below.

P.O. Box-MK-81
Classified Ads Division
c/o PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
G/F Atrium of Makati
Makati Ave., Makati City

A multinational financial institution in the process of establishing an insurance brokerage is seeking applications from highly motivated, committed and sales and service-oriented individuals who wish to pursue a career in insurance industry as:

SOLICITING OFFICIAL

Be part of a dynamic team of a soon-to-be formed insurance brokerage. You will be responsible for overseeing the daily operations and the sales and business development of the brokerage. As soliciting official, you will likewise ensure that all deals are compliant with existing group and regulatory policies. Additionally, you will conduct insurance training sessions for the distribution network staff.

We are inviting applications from people with the following qualifications:

- Must have at least ten (10) years of experience as: a sales and/or underwriting executive in an insurance brokerage firm or insurance company, or a general agent (may be reduced to five (5) years if applicant holds an associateship in an educational institution acceptable to the Insurance Commission)
- Must have no history of unprofessional conduct known to the Commission, other brokers and insurance companies
- Must have high degree of communication, presentation and interpersonal skills
- Must possess strong customer orientation preferably with a proven track record in sales
- Must be highly driven, with great motivation to succeed
- Must be a Filipino citizen (this is a requirement)

Qualified applicants will undergo a selection process which includes a series of tests and interviews.

Extensive training, an automated work environment, and an attractive remuneration package which recognises and rewards performance await qualified candidates.

All applications must be submitted by **25 March 2002** to:

RND
PO BOX 1096
Makati Central Post Office
Philippines

NOTE: TELEPHONE QUERIES WILL NOT BE ENTERTAINED

Your career might only be a click of the mouse away.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER JOBMarket ONLINE

Read it every Sunday with the Philippine Daily Inquirer and visit it online at www.jobmarketonline.com

MSI DIGILAND (PHILS.), INC.

Great Products.
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Great People.

Link-up with the one that hones your expertise.

We are in the forefront of IT distribution fueled by a team of [illegible] dynamic professionals.

We share the benefits of information technology to our target markets and value customer relationship. We take pride in our work and strive to excel in our competencies.

We are a subsidiary of Digiland International Ltd., a leading IT distribution network based in Singapore and with offices in Australia, Japan, Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, India, Vietnam, Taiwan, Indonesia, HongKong and the Philippines.

Join us and experience our edge where technologies and opportunities fill our path.

ASSISTANT SALES & MARKETING MANAGER

- Male/female, not more than 30 years old, Chinese-speaking
- Graduate of Engineering, Business or Marketing
- With 2 years managerial experience handling sales & marketing operations gained from reputable IT firms
- Imbued with excellent interpersonal skills and leadership ability

PRODUCT MANAGERS (PC, UPS, Commodity)

- Male/female, not more than 30 years old
- Graduate of Engineering, Business or Marketing
- With at least 2 years solid product management experience obtained from the IT industry
- With good business acumen, excellent communication and people-handling skills

SALES OFFICERS

- Male/female, not more than 30 years old
- Graduate of Engineering, Business or Marketing
- With at least 1 year IT sales experience
- Possesses exceptional communication skills, confident and goal-oriented

PRODUCT ENGINEERS

- Male/female, not more than 30 years old
- Graduate of ECE or Computer Engineering
- With technical expertise in PC and server technology, Lotus Notes and/or Windows NT
- With excellent verbal and writing skills, service-oriented, highly confident

TELESALES ASSISTANT

- Female, not more than 30 years old
- Graduate of any 4-year course
  With at least 6 months telemarketing experience
- Articulate and computer-literate

HUMAN RESOURCES ASSISTANT

- Male/female, not more than 30 years old
- Graduate of AB/BS Psychology, Behavioral Science or Human Resources Management
- With at least 1 year experience in recruitment & selection, job evaluation, performance management
- Possesses excellent formal communication skills, confident and efficient

ACCOUNTING ASSISTANT

- Male/female, not more than 30 years old
- Graduate of BS Accountancy
- With at least 1 year experience performing general accounting functions
- Computer literate and detail-oriented

RECEPTIONIST/TELEPHONE OPERATOR

- Female, not more than 30 years old
- Graduate of any 4-year course
- With good english communication skills, computer-literate

Interested parties may send their letter of application and comprehensive resume' with colored photo to:

THE HR MANAGER
MSI-Digiland (Phils.), Inc.
Topy II Building, 3 Economia Street, Libis, Quezon City 1110
Fax: (02)638-4938 • E-mail: dphr@msi-digiland.com.ph • Website: www.msi-digiland.com

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THE Little gym®

The Little Gym
Total Development for Your Child.

The Little Gym Mandaluyong
Level 5, Shangri-La Plaza Mall
EDSA cor. Shaw Blvd.
Mandaluyong

The Little Gym Alabang
Level 3, Festival Supermall
Filinvest Corporate City
Alabang, Muntinlupa

The Little Gym Makati
Level 1, HatchAsia GlobalCity Center
31st St. cor.2nd Ave., E-Square
Bonifacio Global City, Taguig

The Little Gym East Quezon City
2nd Floor, Shoppersville Supermarket
355 Katipunan Avenue
Loyola Heights, Quezon City

The Little Gym® is a franchised children's fitness and development center where motor development, recreational gymnastics, sports skills development, and martial arts classes are provided in a safe non-competitive environment. The curriculum-based physical, social and intellectual development programs are designed by child development experts in the United States.

Our enrollment is growing fast, and we need more great teachers for all our four locations. The most qualified candidates will be required to complete successfully a specialized The Little Gym training program. Instructors who complete training and pass assessment would have the privilege of being among the highest paid teachers in the country. All our full-time staff have health insurance benefits.

Awesome Recreational Gymnastics and Pre-School Teachers For Immediate Hiring

We are looking for college degree holders between 21 and 35 years old who speak English fluently and have excellent communication skills, have high energy levels, and are physically fit. They must have a professional work ethic, be habitually punctual, friendly, great with kids, and enjoy teaching and being with kids. Those with backgrounds or experience in early childhood education, child development, special education, gymnastics, or marketing are preferred. Those who are punctuality-challenged and unenthusiastic need not apply.

If you're the one we're looking for, please send your application letter, resumé & passport-sized photo BY MAIL to any of our branches before March 25, 2002.

Only the most qualified will be called in for interviews after Holy Week. Applications in person will not be entertained at this time.

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We are an I.T. company composed of young I.T. professionals who are success-driven and result-oriented. INFORMATICS, the WORLD'S LARGEST NETWORK OF COMPUTER TRAINING INSTITUTE, invites aggressive and self-driven individuals to be part of its training and education centers in the Philippines and in the Asia Pacific region. COMPETITIVE BENEFITS PACKAGE, PROGRESSIVE SALARY INCREASE, EXTENSIVE TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES, FAST PROMOTION and POSSIBLE INTERNATIONAL ASSIGNMENT await successful candidates!

These openings are for our branches in DAGUPAN, PAMPANGA, BAGUIO, CUBAO MANDALUYONG, U-BELT, STA. MESA, ALABANG, ORTIGAS & ERMITA, MANILA!

COURSE CONSULTANTS

- Male or female, 21 to 25 years old
- College graduate with good communication skills
- With experience in sales or marketing
- Computer literate
- Pleasing Personality

LECTURERS

- Male or female, 20 to 35 years old
- B.S. Comp. Sci., Comp. Eng. graduate or any computer related course
- With good communication skills
- Knowledge in IT applications or any IT specialized field
- Preferably with teaching experience

CENTER BUSINESS MANAGER

- Male or female, 26 to 35 years old
- Has an experience leading a group of people
- Candidates must have a Masteral Degree or equivalent management experience
- Have at least 2 years experience in the academe, or project, sales and marketing management

SERVICES OFFICER

- Female 21 to 25 years old
- College graduate with good communication skills
- Preferably with background in administrative work
- Computer literate
- Pleasing personality

ACCOUNTANT

- Female, 21 to 30 years old
- Accounting graduate, preferably computer literate
- CPA license an advantage

TECHNICIAN/UTILITY MAN

- Male 18 to 25 years old
- At least 2nd year college (undergraduate)
- With technical background preferred
- Computer Literate

Send your resume with recent 2 x 2" ID picture to 2/F Security Bank Building 228 Ortigas Avenue, Greenhills, San Juan, M. M. • Tel.: 727-0401 Fax: 722-9490 or E-mail: mvirtucio@informatics.net.ph

PHILIPPINES SINGAPORE BAHRAIN BANGLADESH BRAZIL BRUNEI CAMBODIA CHILE CHINA EGYPT ESTONIA HONGKONG INDIA INDONESIA OMAN NEPAL NIGERIA MACAU MALAYSIA MAURITIUS MYANMAR PAKISTAN ROMANIA SAUDI ARABIA SRI LANKA SOUTH AFRICA SOUTH KOREA SWEDEN TAIWAN THAILAND UNITED KINGDOM VIETNAM ZIMBABWE

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globalstride

formerly Webservasia

We are one of the country's premier companies engaged in internet-based Customer Relationship Management. We invite experienced and highly motivated individuals to join our organization for the following positions:

Training & Development Manager (Code: TM-Trn)

The Training Manager will be the key player in designing, implementing and overseeing the training programs of the company. The task includes developing training manuals, administering tools and job aids for performance enhancement, and coordinating the implementation of client-specific training. He/she will also be expected to play a vital role in implementing career and competency development programs for all employees.

The ideal candidate are persons between twenty-five and thirty-five years of age; at least three years of hands-on exposure in training and employee development. Experience in Customer Relationship Management and competency-based systems are a definite advantage.

QA Manager (Code: QAM-QA)

The Quality Assurance Manager will be responsible in developing, quality systems and guidelines that would enhance company efficiency and effectiveness. Specific duties would cover setting-up of quality standards necessary to ensure company-wide objectives are met; intitute tools that will ascertain all client reportorial requirements are of highest standards. The ideal candidate must have at least three years solid experience in quality assurance, two years of which must be in a supervisory capacity acquired in a call center/telecoms/service industry. Persons between twenty-five to thirty-five years of age are preferred.

Payroll Analyst (Code: PA-Fin)

The Payroll Analyst will be responsible for ensuring the accuracy of computation, timeliness of release, and confidentiality of information related to payroll. The ideal candidate must have at least 2 years extensive experience in payroll administration. Must have sufficient knowledge in government mandated regulations (ie. Tax, SSS, HDMF, PhilHealth, etc) and Philippine wage law. The candidate must be Finance graduate; must be a Certified Public Accountant (CPA). He/she must have excellent interpersonal skills. Persons between twenty-five to thirty years of age are preferred.

LAN Tech Engineer (Code: LTE-IT)

The LAN Engineer will be responsible for planning, designing and implementing network and security solutions. He/She is also required to administer the network and provide hardware/software techical support to all users. The candidate must be a university/college degree holder in BS Electronics/Electrical Engineering or Information Technology; must have at least 2 years work experience in LAN/WAN and firewall technologies; must be knowledgeable in Windows 2000, Windows NT 4.0, Exchange 5.5/2000, ISA, Proxy 2.0, IIS 5.0/4.0 and SQL 2000/7.0 and other Microsoft Back Office products; must have experience in installing, configuring and implementing Windows 2000/NT 4 in an enterprise environment. Above average communication skills. MCSE, MCP preferred but not required.

Customer Care Specialists (Code: CCS-PM)

The Customer Care Specialists will be at the forefront of our organization. They will be the focal point for all customer requests, and will be responsible for providing front line support and assistance to our clients. Our Customer Care Specialists are expected to analyze, diagnose and solve problems, with consistently high customer satisfaction rating. They should be courteous, customer-focused, and must be team spirited. The ideal candidates for the position are persons who are internet savvy college graduates; excellent communications skills; are between twenty and twenty-seven years of age, with excellent interpersonal skills; and are willing to work shifts. Previous experience in the customer relations management industry and can speak any foreign language such as Fookien, Mandarin, Cantonese and Spanish is a plus.

Interested parties are requested to submit their comprehensive resumé indicating the position code to:

GLOBALSTRIDE
Attn: Human Resources Department
29/F IBM Plaza, Eastwood City Cyberpark, E. Rodriguez Avenue, Bagumbayan, Quezon City
Email: jobs@webservasia.com.ph
Fax No: 911-8854

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MEDICard PHILS. INC.

One of the country's leading HMO is looking for assertive, dynamic and energetic individuals to fill up the following vacancies:

REGISTERED NURSES

- ✓ With at least 6 months to 1 year experience in a hospital or HMO setting;
- ✓ With pleasing personality and above-average communication skills;
- ✓ Willing to be assigned either in Clark Pampanga, Libis, Quezon City, Makati

MARKETING ASSISTANT

- ✓ Male, not more than 26 years of age. At least 5'6" in height;
- ✓ Graduate of any Medical Course;
- ✓ Must be computer literate;
- ✓ With above average written and oral communication skills

DATA ENCODER

- ✓ Graduate of any Computer course;
- ✓ Must be proficient in Visual Basic and MS Access

PHILHEALTH OFFICER

- ✓ Graduate of B.S. Accountancy;
- ✓ Must have at least 1 to 2 years relevant experience preferably gained in an HMO or insurance pre-need setting;
- ✓ With good analytical skills and must be computer literate

We are also in need of Accountants preferably CPA with 6 months to 1 year work experience.

Qualified and interested applicants are requested to apply personally. Bring resumé, transcript of records and 2x2 photo at: Medicard Phils., Inc.: Human Resources Department-5/F Sagittarius Bldg., H.V. Dela Costa St., Salcedo Village, Makati City. Email us at laguila@medicardphils.com (Previous applicants need not apply)

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER JOBMarket ONLINE
SEND YOUR RESUMÉS INSTANTLY
VISIT US AT www.jobmarketonline.com

IMMEDIATE JOB OPENING

VAN SALESMEN (4)

MOTORCYCLE SALESMEN (2)

☑ At least Second Year College
☑ Must have a valid driver's license
☑ Experience an advantage

SALES CLERK

☑ Computer literate
☑ Good oral and written communication

INTERNAL ACCOUNTANT

☑ Must be a CPA
☑ Female, not more than 25 years old
☑ Computer literate

Interested applicants may apply at:

ProSales Marketing Corporation
103-A P. Tuazon, Cubao, Quezon City
Tel. 721-3861, 721-3869, 721-3867
Look for Mr. Vic Aguas or
Mr. Ferdie Valido

A Prestigious hospital in Libya is in need of the following:

NURSE - SICU + MED. ICU/CCU +CSICU	Nurse ICU
NURSE - NEONATAL ICU/NURSERY	General Nurse
NURSE - O.T. SCRUB	Neonatal Nurse
NURSE - E.R.	Theater Nurse
NURSE - GENERAL	Anesthesiologist
MIDWIFE - DELIVERY ROOM	Hemodialyses Tech.
	Sterilization Tech.

Qualifications:
1. Must be a Registered Nurse/Midwife/Technician Biomedical
2. Age not above (45) years old
3. Male/Female
4. Work experience must be 3 to 5 years

Qualified applicants are requested to come during office hours from 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M., Monday to Saturday and bring resumé with picture together with other credentials or you may send your application on the address below:

WERR CORPORATION INTERNATIONAL
PARC Bldg., 2756 Bruger St., Putatan
Muntinlupa City, Phil.
Tel. Nos. 8610854/8611432/8611549
email address: werr@i-manila.com.ph

No fees to be collected **Mag-ingat sa illegal recruiter**

FOR MANPOWER POOLING ONLY

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RAMCAR GROUP OF COMPANIES

The NO.1 Battery Manufacturer in the Philippines is in immediate need of the following:

PRODUCTION ENGINEERS (PLASTICS & ASSEMBLY)

~ Male, 22-30 years old
~ B.S. ME/ECE/EE graduate
~ Preferably with experience in a manufacturing firm.
~ Highly computer literate; knowledge on SPC.
~ Must be willing to be assigned in Sta. Maria, Bulacan.

BRAND MANAGER

~ Male/Female, 25-35 years old
~ Graduate of any business course.
~ Must have at least 3 years related work experience as Brand/Product Manager in a manufacturing firm.
~ Excellent communication and leadership skills.
~ Place of Assignment: Quezon City

BRAND ASSISTANT

~ Male/Female, 20-28 years old
~ Graduate of any business course.
~ Pref. with at least one year experience on brand management but FRESH graduates with good potentials are still welcome to apply.
~ Highly computer literate and with excellent communication and interpersonal skills.
~ Place of Assignment: Quezon City

ACCOUNTANTS

~ Male/Female, 20-28 years old
~ Graduate of B.S. Accountancy; must be a CPA.
~ With or without experience; fresh graduates are welcome to apply.
~ Must be computer literate.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY (TO A HIGH LEVEL OFFICER)

~ Female, 25-35 years old
~ Graduate of any four-year college course.
~ Must have at least 5 years experience as an Executive Secretary to a company official.
~ Must be computer literate and with excellent English communication skills.
~ Place of Assignment: Quezon City

THESE ARE ALL **URGENT** REQUIREMENTS. Interested applicants are requested to apply personally with their resume and credentials to:

THE CORPORATE RECRUITMENT SECTION
Ramcar Center
80-82 Roces Avenue, Diliman, Q.C.

** Previous Applicants need not apply.*

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

The country's leading newspaper is looking for:

MESSENGER

- College level
- With at least 1 year experience
- Knows how to drive motorcycle, with driver's license (1,2)
- Familiar with road direction in Metro Manila

Mail your application letter, comprehensive resumé to:

HR MANAGEMENT
SERVICES HEAD
Philippine Daily Inquirer
Chino Roces Avenue
(formerly Pasong Tamo)
Corner Yague and Mascardo Streets,
Makati City

E-mail: recruitment@inquirer.com.ph

The ***Peace and Equity Foundation*** is a non-stock, non-profit organization committed to the vision of a poverty-free society. It is a funding mechanism that seeks to support projects that address poverty, inequity and structural injustice in rural and urban poor communities.

If you believe that you can make a difference in other people's lives and would be willing to commit yourself and actively participate in the Foundation's pursuit of its mission, we invite you to join us to fill in the following positions:

Executive Director

The Task
Reporting to the President and Board of Trustees, leads in setting the Foundation's strategic direction, executes the directions/thrusts, integrates/initiates the various/new programs, maintains strategic networks, ensures financial viability and adequacy of financial controls and takes charge of the efficient and effective day to day management of the Foundation, its assets and staff.

The Requirements
Holds a master's degree in Business, Entrepreneurship, Social Science, Development Management or any related field Strong specialization in microenterprise and microfinance. At least 10 years managerial experience in a development organization (private or otherwise), **with significant experience in a grant making, non-profit organization.** Excellent conceptualization, leadership and management skills and excellent written and verbal communication and presentation skills. Good human relations skills.

Grants Officer

The Task
Reporting to the Grants Manager, evaluates project proposals submitted for funding, conducts proponent/organization assessment, performs project monitoring and evaluation functions, provides technical assistance in institution building, project development, management, monitoring and evaluation.

The Requirements
College degree preferably with masteral units. With expertise in any of the following areas: enterprise development and management, credit management, institution building, community organizing. Good verbal and written communication skills, analytical and with good human relations skills. **At least three years experience in a grant making non-profit.** Mindanao and Visayan-based professionals are encouraged to apply.

Please forward your resumé, transcript of records and photo not later than **March 22, 2002** to:

THE PRESIDENT
Peace & Equity Foundation
Rm. 216, Institute of Social Order
Ateneo de Manila University Complex
Katipunan, Quezon City; Fax No. 426-5951

We are one of the leading Pumps and Motors Suppliers. We are in need of highly motivated

SALES ENGINEERS

with the following qualifications:

1. Male or female
2. 25-35 years old
3. Graduate of Mechanical, Industrial or Electrical Engineering
4. Experience in industrial sales preferred
5. With good communication skills

Apply in person with complete resumé and transcript of records to **Triumph Machinery Corp.** at No. 260 Vito Cruz Extension, San Antonio Village, Makati City. Tel. Nos. 896-7961, 896-8904. Look for Ms. Janet Gamboa.

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. Account Manager
. adequate experience in sales or marketing
. fluency in English is a must

NOW POOLING !!!
. Management Trainees
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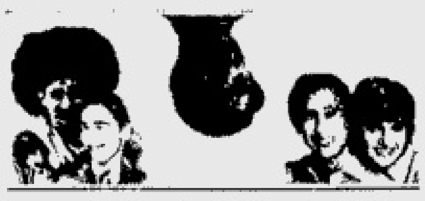
Send your resumes / portfolio to:

VIPER TECHNOLOGIES, INC.
Suite 1003 Antel Global Corporate Center
Dona Julia Vargas Avenue, Ortigas Center
Pasig City, Philippines 1600

or email:

iwanttowork@vipertechonline.com



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TECHNICAL SUPPORT ENGINEER

Will be responsible for providing post sales support to clients.

Qualifications:
- Graduate of any 4-year Engineering course
- Technical experience in Information Technology
- Familiar in Networking, PCs & Servers troubleshooting
- Knowledge in Unix is a plus

Please send complete resumé,
recent 2x2 photo to:

Zenshin Systems Corp.
25 G. Roxas St., Brgy. San Jose, Quezon City
email: rtlim@zenshin.com.ph

WANTED IMMEDIATELY

INVENTORY CLERK

Qualifications:
⇨ female (single)
⇨ 21-25 years old
⇨ Commerce graduate (any major)
⇨ knowledge in computer an advantage
⇨ new graduate may apply

Send to: **U.P. P.O. BOX 15,**
DILIMAN, QUEZON CITY, 1101

○ comprehensive resumé
○ records of grades
○ 2x2 or 1-1/2 x 1-1/2 ID picture

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Being the NUMBER ONE pizza-pasta food chain also means creating ONE-OF-A-KIND career individuals.

R&D SPECIALIST

☐ male or female; not more than 30 years old
☐ must be a graduate of BS Food Technology from a reputable school
☐ with at least two years experience in product development, particularly on meat (and poultry, optional) processing
☐ can work with minimum supervision; able to handle work pressures
☐ with good oral and written communication skills
☐ must be computer-literate

Interested parties should send their comprehensive resume with recent 2x2 colored photo and Transcript of Records to:

HRD- Selection & Hiring
Rm. 303 Jollibee Center, San Miguel Ave., Ortigas Center, Pasig City
E-MAIL ADDRESS: apply@greenwich.com.ph

HARIBON FOUNDATION

"Protecting Nature, Preserving Life"

Haribon Foundation is a non-stock, non-profit and membership organization committed to nature conservation through community empowerment and scientific excellence. Organized in 1972 as a bird watching society. Haribon is known to be the pioneer environmental organization in the Philippines. For this year, we invited dedicated professionals to join our growing family to occupy the following position.

HUMAN RESOURCES ASSISTANT

➢ male or female college graduate
➢ equipped with average interpersonal, verbal and written communications skills
➢ must be well organized, systematic, and persevering
➢ computer literate
➢ experience in payroll management, compensation and benefits a definite advantage
➢ must have working knowledge in government mandated regulations (tax, SSS, health and life insurance, Philhealth, etc.)
➢ at least two (2) years experience in HR functions

Due to urgency of requirements, qualified applicants may send their comprehensive resumé through mail and e-mail or submit it to the head office on or before **March 22, 2002**. Only short-listed candidates will be called for an interview.

Human Resources Officer
Haribon Foundation for the Conservation of Natural Resources, Inc.
No. 9 Malingap corner Malumanay Streets, Teacher's Village, Diliman, Quezon City
E-mail: director@haribon.org.ph
For inquiries call: 925-3332 loc. 42

JOIN A GROWING BUSINESS ORGANIZATION

Two opportunities exist to join the Secretariat of a dynamic and growing business organization that works closely with both the private and public sectors in the Philippines, Australia & New Zealand. Both positions are demanding and require people with well developed experience, communications skills and work ethics.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Responsibilities include the recording & timely preparation of minutes of Board & Committee meetings, preparation of correspondence, general administration and bookkeeping. Prior experience using computer based accounting software will be highly regarded.

MEMBERSHIP SERVICES COORDINATOR

Responsibilities include liaison with members; recruitment of new members from Filipino and foreign businesses; writing and publication of media releases, newsletters, electronic bulletins & Membership Directory; website maintenance; assisting Membership & Sponsorship Committees. Highly developed written and interpersonal communications skills are essential.

Both positions are based in Makati City and report to the Executive Director. Initial remuneration will be based on qualifications & experience and on performance thereafter.

Written applications by mail to P.O. Box 4672 Makati Central Post Office, Makati City. Please enclose a statement of qualifications & experience, references and a recent photograph. Applications due not later than 5:00pm on 22 March 2002.

WANTED

CUSTOMER SERVICE REPRESENTATIVES

- Business Admin., Marketing Graduate or equivalent
- At least two years selling experience
- Bring resumé to AVP for HRD

4F G.E. Antonino Bldg., T.M. Kalaw cor.
J. Bocobo Sts., Ermita, Manila

GARDEX ELECTRONICS (PH), INC.

Urgently needs an

SENIOR SALES ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE

QUALIFICATIONS:
- 25 – 32 YEARS OLD.
- PROVEN SALES TRACK RECORD
- W/ AN EXTENSIVE BACKGROUND IN CLOSED CIRCUIT TELEVISION (CCTV) SYSTEMS & SALES
- FLUENT IN ENGLISH
- PREFERRABLY FEMALE
- SELF MOTIVATED
- MUST HAVE A KNOWLEDGE IN SALES PRESENTATIONS
- MUST BE PROFICIENT IN WORD, EXCEL & POWER POINT

WE OFFER A VERY COMPETITIVE SALARY BASE PLUS COMMISSION TO QUALIFIED APPLICANTS. SEND YOUR RESUME WITH RECENT PHOTO TO FAX NO. 818-5006

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING!!

PERSONNEL AND ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

☑ University graduate, with good academic background
☑ Preferably between 25-30 years old, with at least 2-3 years experience in the same capacity
☑ Computer literate with excellent oral and written communication skills
☑ Must be aggressive, honest, assertive and analytical

PROOFREADERS
ACCOUNTING CLERKS
STORE CLERKS

☑ University graduate, with good academic background
☑ Preferably between 23-25 years old and with experience
☑ Possess good oral and written communication skills

APPLY AT:

Second Floor, Phoenix Building
927 Quezon Avenue, Quezon City
Tel. No. 372-3550, Fax No. 372-4732
E-mail: sales@central.com.ph

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REVOLUTIONIZE FINANCIAL SERVICES!

NMG FINANCIAL SERVICES CONSULTING designs and implements best practice solutions for leading financial services providers across the globe

NMG
FINANCIAL
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Distribution Consultants

NMG is seeking to appoint consultants to support the development of our distribution practice in the Philippines and across Asia Pacific. You will advise financial services organizations across the full spectrum of consulting solutions in sales, marketing and distribution.

Senior Consultant

In this role you will provide leadership and mentoring for project team members, ensure that strong client relationships are built and maintained, and identify potential opportunities for new client work, prepare and present proposals as required. As part of a team effort you will also have marketing responsibilities across the region.

Ideally you should come from a consulting or financial services distribution background, and have worked 5+ years in the financial services industry, preferably within a sales or marketing role with a proven track record of success. You will have experience in leading and managing people, with the capacity to manage multi-disciplinary projects.

Consultant

In this role you will be responsible for assisting Senior Consultants in developing and implementing solutions for our clients. You may assist with client interviews, undertake desk research and analysis, facilitate workshops, or assist in preparing presentations to senior executives.

Ideally you should come from a consulting or distribution background, and have worked 2+ years in the financial services industry. Integral to your success will be your high level of initiative and strong analytical skills.

Applicants for both positions should be team players with polished interpersonal and communication skills and be willing to travel extensively across Asia Pacific.

Please email your résumé, quoting Ref No. AFR020 in the Subject Line, to the following email address:
Consultant.AFR020@NMG-Group.com

Confidentiality is assured. www.NMG-Group.com

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sunday
GET TO KNOW SOME REAL PEOPLE
INQUIRER
March 17, 2002
magazine

Peter Jonas David

Walking Tall

By Pam Pastor
Photographs by Mike Alquinto

IT IS a busy afternoon at the State University. Students are rushing from one building to another in an attempt to make it in time for their next class. Echoes of campaign speeches, of student politicians spewing promises and hope, blast from bad sound systems.

Amidst the flurry of activities, 21-year-old Peter Jonas Rodriguez David sits quietly on the steps of the second Chemistry pavilion, seemingly oblivious to the noise around him. He stares blankly into space, holding his crutches against his lap. This is something he enjoys. Just blanking out and reflecting about life.

He does have a lot to think about. Born two months premature, he has lived with a condition most people only read about in medical books–cerebral palsy. Since his muscles from the waist down are weak, Jonas has had to wear braces on his legs from the time he was a year old. He has gone through different walking apparatuses, from walkers to canes and crutches. Despite this, it took him a while before he realized that there was something different about him. "My parents never made me feel that I was different. I was treated like a normal kid at home."

Things changed when little Jonas started going to school. "I began to have problems. I saw kids my age playing around, just simple stuff like *patintero* and I couldn't do it. That's when I began asking myself, what's wrong with me?" Jonas refuses to believe that he is just like other people, though. "I know I'm different and I've accepted it. You can't be in denial. You have to face the facts." While cerebral palsy has always been a part of Jonas' existence, it did not and does not define him. Jonas' strength, fire and spunk have constantly overpowered his condition. As a child, he bravely faced hours of therapy, empowered by his parents' promise of new toys.

Before enrolling in Ateneo for prep, another prestigious all-boys school turned him away because of his condition even if he aced the entrance exam. He did Ateneo proud. He underwent a tendon release operation when he was 13 and spent just two months recuperating when most patients need six.

His classmates' teasing didn't help. "I was a prep student in 1986 and around that time, Robocop was very famous. They started calling me that. It affected me. I used to cry a lot."

When Jonas would go home crying, his mother would tell him to keep his head up: "She'd tell me to just study and ignore them. She always told me, you can lose everything but not your education."

Jonas took his mother's words to heart. "I got used to the teasing. *Parang na*-immune. *Hindi na ako tinalaban.* (I wasn't affected anymore.) I just studied. I guess I could say that I turned my handicap into something positive. It became a motivation for me to study. I couldn't play. I had nothing else to do so I just studied. I didn't care if people called me a nerd. That was my focus. Instead of thinking about my condition, or pitying myself, I just studied."

He remembers being showered with toys as a child. He now enjoys going to the mall with friends, watching movies and playing video games. He likes watching "Friends" and BBC and listening to music. He enjoys reading, his favorite author being Ayn Rand. And he plays big brother to Francis, 17 and Lourdes, 15.

In high school, he got hooked on chatting, finding refuge in a place where he doesn't have to explain about his health. "People have the tendency to become aloof when they meet me, like they don't know how to act. In a chat, I didn't have to explain to them about my condition. *Pag nasa* computer *ka malay ba naman nila kung pilay ka,*" he says in jest.

Instead of holding grudges against the kids who bullied him, some of them even became his friends. The others, he said almost sadly, never finished school. While he has stopped having therapy sessions, Jonas wills himself to devote time to self-stretching, no matter how painful it may get sometimes.

His hard work has paid off. Jonas has been a consistent honor student since he was in prep. He encountered trouble during his last two years of high school, though, in the form of geometry and trigonometry. "During that time, I was having problems with my hand. I couldn't

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Peter Jonas David has lived with the pain and inevitable limitations of cerebral palsy all his life. But it has not stopped him from becoming an outstanding student, making friends, falling in love, becoming a teacher – and daring to dream about his future

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BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Jonas

...from page 1

write fast, I couldn't draw graphs. You can just imagine the agony of knowing the answers but not being able to put them down on paper."

After graduating from the Ateneo High School, Jonas decided to take up Journalism at the University of the Philippines. His plans soon changed, though. "I was forced to shift because the field work was too much for my condition. It's not because of my grades; in fact, my teachers didn't want me to shift. I just made Journalism a cognate elective, like a minor."

He decided to focus on Philosophy. "My career plans changed when I shifted to Philosophy. I decided to take it because it doesn't require too much physical effort. You just read and analyze. Philosophy helped put my life in perspective."

Though he originally wanted to take up law, Jonas now has a different plan. "In the future, my priority will be to teach, primarily to say thank you to my professors. With the state of the education system, there are a lot of people who don't want to teach. Most of the best graduates of Philosophy end up in law school. *Walang natitira.*"

And Jonas thinks teaching would also be a good choice because of his condition. "I'll just be sitting down. I won't be stressed out. I'll just be lecturing, I hope *hindi naman* boring." He intends to start teaching at UP in June.

ONE wonders if Jonas can handle moving around such a big university, but he just grins. "It's just a matter of three things: time management, time management and time management. In UP, you have the freedom to take the courses you like at the time you want. For example, if my first class is from 8:30 to 10 and then my next class is in another building, I make sure I leave a gap so I'll have time to rest. I usually take a cab from one building to another. I make sure I have breaks between classes. UP isn't exactly a handicap-friendly campus, as you can see. In the beginning, I had to adjust. I had to climb four flights of stairs. Because I've gotten so used to that, I can now lift twice my body weight."

Believe it or not, Jonas took Physical Education classes like everyone else. "I took Scrabble, Chess and PE I. PE I is lecture on Physical Fitness. My Bridge teacher made me drop the subject because my hands sometimes shake when I play."

This month, Jonas will receive his BA Philosophy degree from the University of the Philippines, *cum laude*. While a lot of young people would kill for this recognition, Jonas says there is more to education than graduating with honors.

"The grade is something, being *cum laude* is something, but it's not everything. There are many ways to get that without much effort. It's just a matter of selecting professors who give high grades. What's the point of that? It's no big deal. Being *cum laude* is just a bonus. Regardless of whether I graduate *cum laude* or not, I feel fulfilled because I know I chose professors who don't easily give high grades."

This young man has evidently fallen in love with Philosophy – and with studying.

WHILE he was in UP, he was also taking Web Programming at Informatics in SM North Edsa on Saturdays. Right after graduation – yes, this summer – he intends to continue studying in UP. "For my masteral studies, I'm planning to major in Philosophy of Science starting this summer."

When asked why he doesn't want to take even a short break, Jonas answers matter-of-factly, "Education takes momentum. If you start earning money, that's going to be the end of it. *Mawawalan ka ng gana mag-aral.*" While Jonas admits that graduating from college is a relief, he says that it's only one step. "I'm aiming for a doctorate in Philosophy, so *malayo pa.*"

Jonas attributes his success to his parents' support. His dad Jose, a surgeon, has always been there for his son. Mom Bing, who stopped working to take care of him when he was born, has become a familiar figure on campus. "Whenever the people in the registrar's office would see me, they always ask how my mom is. She used to pick me up. Now I go home alone. When I'm sick, she waits for the professors and explains to them that I'm sick. She's always been supportive of me and my education."

If you think Jonas has been too busy with his studies to fall in love, you're wrong. "I've fallen in love many times. Right now, my love life is happy." Although he refused to elaborate, Jonas ticked off a list of qualities he likes in women. "I don't care about looks. I just want someone who accepts me completely. Someone who wouldn't tell me, *"Mabuti nga ako, pinatulan kita."* (You're lucky I went out with you.) I don't want to hear that."

He shares the most painful thing a girl has told him. "I sort of had a mutual understanding with this girl. But then our friend told me that the girl said she didn't want me to become her boyfriend *kasi magmumukha daw siyang yaya.* (She would look like my nanny.) *Aray. Masakit yun.* I left her alone."

He wants a family in the future – but future is the operative word, since this young man evidently still has a lot of plans for himself. Jonas may sound older than his 21 years, but he is just a normal young person in countless ways.

He knows how to deal with people who stare at him. "I take it into perspective. When people look at me like that, I just tell myself that they probably haven't seen anyone like me before. Sometimes, kids think that my crutches are toys. I just smile at them and show them the crutches."

Jonas has become a source of inspiration for countless people. Unfortunately, it cannot be denied that out there are hundreds, or even thousands of people born with disabilities who still haven't come to terms with their condition. Addressing these people, Jonas quotes philosopher Friedrich Nietzsche: "What does not kill you will only make you stronger."

Then, he continues, speaking with conviction, "Don't lose hope. It's not what you don't have, it's what you do have."

Taking control of his life despite the odds

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The Cover Image Peter Jonas David has overcome all obstacles to excel at UP
Photograph by Mike Alquinto

THE SIZE OF SIM

I WOULD like to extend my warmest appreciation for your newly resized newspaper. Thank you very much for showing your concern in helping our country to preserve our natural resources with the resizing. I hope that you also feature those charitable institutions that extend help to our poor children and fellowmen like the Sisters of Mary School. I hope that the Philippine Daily INQUIRER will become a channel for peace in Mindanao and in the whole world.

JULIUS LERDON
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I'M one of the avid readers of your newspaper. My Sunday is never complete without the INQUIRER. I think redoing the size of your newspaper is a brilliant idea. Coming up with a separate section to explain its benefits to your readers shows great concern on your part. I don't mind a sleeker and "sexier" INQUIRER as long as I know you'll be delivering the truth in all the articles that you feature. However, I strongly believe that the previous layout of **SIM** should stay. Your February 3 issue just looked so different. I miss the previous **SIM** already.

ALLEN GARCIA
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A TRUE OMBUDSMAN

I am a 69-year-old American who first learned of and learned to care for the Philippine Islands and people as a child during World War II. While visiting the country twice in the past few years (for periods of six weeks each time), I read the daily Filipino newspapers voraciously and was appalled at the amount of corruption reported therein.

During the past two years, almost daily I read the INQUIRER on the Internet, and sometimes a couple of the other newspapers published in Manila. Whenever I spot any article pertaining to your great Ombudsman Aniano Desierto, I never pass it up.

Hurray for him! The P.I. needs more Desiertos and fewer Estradas. I agree with Mr. Desierto when he says, the Philippine People "need to develop a Filipino psyche of honesty, integrity and discipline." My praise of and agreement with his statement no way implies we are perfect over here.

MICHAEL SKUTAR
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BEHIND THE REVOLUTION'S VEIL

I READ with trepidation the account by Eric Caruncho ("Breaking the Silence," **SIM**, 17 February 2002), not because I fear communists might soon take power in the country, but more because of what they are capable of doing. And they can do worse than the atrocities committed by the government and the military they so love to lambast.

The article, or the book for that matter, offered a vital insight as to how the communist movement can spin out of control. If its leadership has no qualms in terrorizing its own members in the name of the Party, then it would be easy to exterminate whole villages without wincing.

Cambodia is a classic example where a communist movement started out initially by the educated elite degenerated into a ruthless, terrorizing mad group that turned the country into killing fields. Consumed by so much paranoia, Pol Pot and his ilk exterminated whole villages in the name of class equality. I believe this happened in Vietnam, Laos and North Korea as well, the remaining bastions of communism. The same paranoia also resulted in the Tiananmen massacre in Beijing in 1989.

Here in the Philippines, the movement has turned on its own. Unfortunately, the Communist movement became the monster it was trying to defeat in the first place.

RON T. DOLOTINA
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ERRATA

IN LAST Sunday's cover story on "The Mavens of Malate" (SIM, 10 March 2002) by Gina Abuyuan-Llanes, the caption identifying the owners of Ladida on page 8 only included the name of Yamby Yambao. The correct caption should have read: "Ladida ladies Yamby Yambao, Tina Gonzales and Pia Abad."

In the same story, restaurant owner Colin Mackay was mistakenly identified as an Irishman. He is actually Scottish.

SIM regrets the errors.

Poetry

Bought an Atlas

Bought an atlas.
"Essential World," it said.
Handsome binding,
Full color,
From the bargain bin,
Discounted 50%,
Among a pile of glossy
Travel guides
And children's picture books
The bookshop
Had to dispose
To move inventory.

In a moment of panic
I thought my country
Was not there.
I kept flipping through
The Political World,
The Ocean Currents,
Global Conflict,
The Life Zones,
The Low Countries,
The detailed United States,
The Caucasus,
The new states
After the breakup
Of the Russian bloc...

Were we missing
From the world?
Had the rest of it
Forgotten
Pinatubo,
People Power,
The burning of the "Ozone,"
The land of neglect
And corruption,
Beauty pageants and Miss Saigon,
The impeachment
Of the Man with Pompadour,
The people who wanted to be
Other than themselves?

Then I found it.
Between Mainland Southeast Asia
And Indian Ocean,
A few pages away from
White Antarctica,
It was there,
Green with a relief
Of mountains.
Not much detail
But Manila was a red dot
In a black square,
Cebu and Davao,
Black dots in a black square,
A lot of black dots
Inside black circles
For the major towns and cities
(But my hometown was not there).

I stared long
At the precious spread
Called Maritime Southeast Asia,
Framed in Mercator scale,
Adorned with legends
For populations
(Dots inside squares
For cities with over 500,000),
And gradations of blue
To green to gray
For elevations
Below and above sea level.
It was there
Above Borneo and Sulawesi,
Almost solitary
Between the Pacific
And South China Sea.
It was there.
Without much detail
But it was there.

The saleslady wrapped
The atlas for me.
Felt smug in my hand.
Bought it for me
Who was afraid
That in our wanting to be
Other than ourselves,
We would be forgotten
By the rest of the world.
Bought it for my son who,
Still so proud to be himself,
Will still have to find
His place in the world.
It was there.
Without much detail
But it was there.

Marne L. Kilates

MIKE ALQUINTO

His Higher Learning

By Natalia F. Diaz

Seminarian John Jacome, a summa cum laude twice over, is looking beyond honors to serve God's people, beginning with the Aetas

JOHN Jacome's soft-spoken manner is a contrast to his sharp mind and solid convictions. As he speaks, he reveals an insightful nature and wisdom well beyond his 24 years. Seminarian John has pushed the boundaries of excellence all throughout his academic life, consistently attaining top honors in his elementary and high school years back in his hometown of Camarines Sur. When it was time for him to pursue higher studies in college, he made the pivotal decision to heed an even higher call at the Holy Rosary Minor Seminary in Naga City. "For me it was not an instant calling, but a gradual awakening," he shares. John managed to carve his name as well within the hallowed walls of the seminary by setting the record as the very first *summa cum laude* of the 200-year-old academic institution, whose alumni include the late Filipino linguist Jose Panganiban. John's scholarly prowess inclined his bishop to recommend him to the University of Santo Tomas to continue his Theology studies.

At the UST, John sharpened his pen as the editor in chief of both Inter Nos, the Faculty of Theology's official publication, and Benavides, the Central Seminary's official newsletter. "I think morality is related to progress because when each of us is transformed, society is transformed."

It comes as no surprise that he will be graduating from the University of Santo Tomas this year *summa cum laude* and a recipient of the Quezon Leadership Award, the toast of his class once again.

Such achievements would be enough to make anyone's head swell with pride, yet John shyly acknowledges his achievements, not unlike a humble disciple. "I think what is most important is the application of this academic aspect in life," he shares, "I've always believed in the Buddhist saying, 'To know and not to do is not yet to know.' For what is the use of study if you can't apply it to real life?"

This conviction is reflected in John's community service projects beyond the school's walls, all bearing the common denominator of making a difference in people's lives. "I think poverty is one of the most pressing issues we have to address," he says. "If we want to alleviate poverty the first thing we should do is to be among the poor, like Jesus." As the President of UST's Theological Society, he spearheaded several outreach programs to help adopted communities in Tondo, Binondo and Bamban, Tarlac. One of his most notable accomplishments was erecting a chapel last December in Sitio Malasa, Tarlac, a resettlement area for Aetas who were victims of the Mt. Pinatubo eruption. Having no money at the start to fund the project, John painstakingly organized Christmas caroling activities and solicitations in order to raise the half a million pesos needed for the chapel's creation. He sacrificed his weekends and free time between classes to visit Sitio Malasa to supervise the chapel's construction and to provide spiritual assistance among the Aetas. In December of last year, the chapel was inaugurated and blessed, and it stands today as the community's spiritual center.

John's selfless and tireless efforts have rightfully earned him the university's Pope Leo XIII award for outstanding community service and the Benavides Achievement Award for outstanding civic involvement. A quiet sigh escapes as John wistfully confesses that he missed reaping the Rector's Award by a slim .01 points, mainly because he was too busy with his activities outside the academe. That honor would have warranted him the Aquinas Award, the highest accolade offered by the UST. "Of course, I felt bad because I knew I could have gotten that. But this experience made me ask myself—what really is my purpose in life? To get awards? I realized that it's not important if the community recognizes you; what is important is that you know where you stand and you know what you have done. Knowing you've done your very best is already a reward."

John believes his greatest challenges are yet ahead, as he moves closer towards one of the most significant moments of his life, his ordination as a priest. "Ordination is just one glorious event, but it is after that when I must face the consequences," he smiles. "I believe if you become a priest in order to escape the realities of married life or the sufferings of the secular world, then you will fall. The motivation is really to serve God and His people."

The humble prodigy offers a unique piece of advice to his fellow graduating students who are surveying the real world ahead. "Graduation is a significant moment in one's life. Many people think it is an end, but if you look at its meaning from the Latin word '*grados*,' or 'step,' it's not an end but a step towards finding true meaning in our lives," he offers. "I believe you shouldn't be too engrossed in work, achievement and success that you forget to realize what life is really about."

Arguably the Best

By Cesar Miguel G. Escaño

One of the country's top debaters, William Panlilio looks to a life of law and philosophy after the Ateneo

WHEN William Panlilio speaks, make it a point to listen. He loves arguing and is quite good at it, to put it mildly. After all, he is currently the number one student debater in the Philippines. Those who have heard his fiery arguments on GMA-7's "Debate with Mare at Pare," of which he is a regular panelist, would agree on one thing: He speaks with authority.

A graduating Philosophy major at the Ateneo de Manila, William started debating in fourth year high school at the Ateneo. His debate career dates back only a few years, yet he has since climbed to the top. He has been named the number one ranked debater in the Philippines for two consecutive years. William also ranks among the world's best. His team was the grand champion in the English as Second Language Category in the 1999 World Debating Championship. In December 2001, he was recognized as the number one ranked debater in Asia at the World Universities Debate Championships.

That he almost never became a debater makes William thoughtful. He says, "A lot of things in life you never really plan, and debating was one of them for me." Medicine was originally his career choice. "I was always the doctor of my family," he recalls. In a sense, however, William has been debating since childhood. His parents allowed him and his siblings to express their disagreement during arguments. He shares, "*Kasi kahit pinapagalitan*, we were allowed to argue, to reason out and ask questions." This, William says, gave him a forceful personality, making him a natural for debating later on. His love for argument manifested early on, away from the podium. He says that his high school teachers espe

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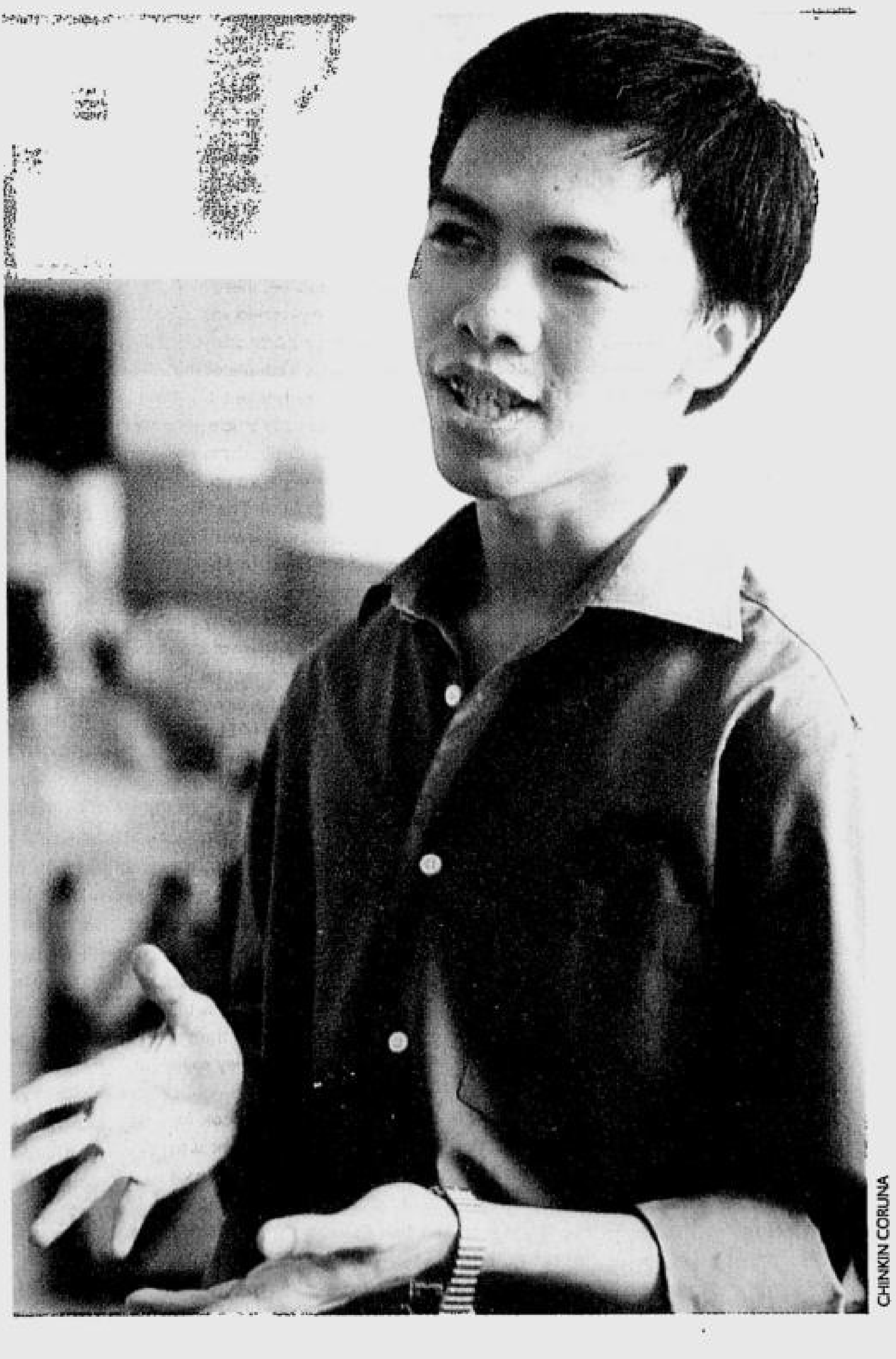


CHINKIN CORUNA

Celebrities

By Cora Llamas

Photographs by Mike Alquinto

The Natural

HIS WHOLESOME good looks, betrayed every now and then by a mischievous smile, could easily have made Carlo Aquino another teen heartthrob. But this TV G-miker's two stunning performances in a couple of major serious films made the audience, critics and filmmakers sit up and take notice.

The first was the titular role in 1999's "*Bata, Bata...Paano Ka Ginawa*?" It pitted his little lost boy character against onscreen parents Vilma Santos and Albert Martinez, and got him the Film Academy Awards' Best Supporting Actor Award at the age of 13. The second, last year's Metro Manila Filmfest's controversial "*Bagong Buwan*," which boldly took an insider's perspective on the Mindanao struggle, cast the now 16-year-old Carlo again as a rebel, but one who's taking up arms in a fight for freedom. For his performance, he won the Best Supporting Actor trophy in the last Star Awards.

His dialogues weren't lengthy, but the few, sharp lines said a lot—a bark of anger, a shrug of irritation, the stubborn silence of disapproval. Or, sometimes there were no lines, leaving the action to make a more powerful, disturbing statement. A flurry of violent kicks against a dead enemy soldier's body as long suppressed rage gives way. Or one lonely drop of tear streaking down his young hardened face, echoing the desperate plea of the Imam nearby.

What makes the acting extraordinary is its spontaneous authenticity. There's good reason why movie scribes have labeled Carlo as the youngest, most natural actor in town. While this kid acknowledges the workshops he had and will have to take, sometimes he finds the prescribed technique just a little too regimented and artificial. "*Baka maging* step-by-step (*ang* workshop). *Gusto ko natural lang na lumalabas sa akin* (I want my acting to come out naturally)."

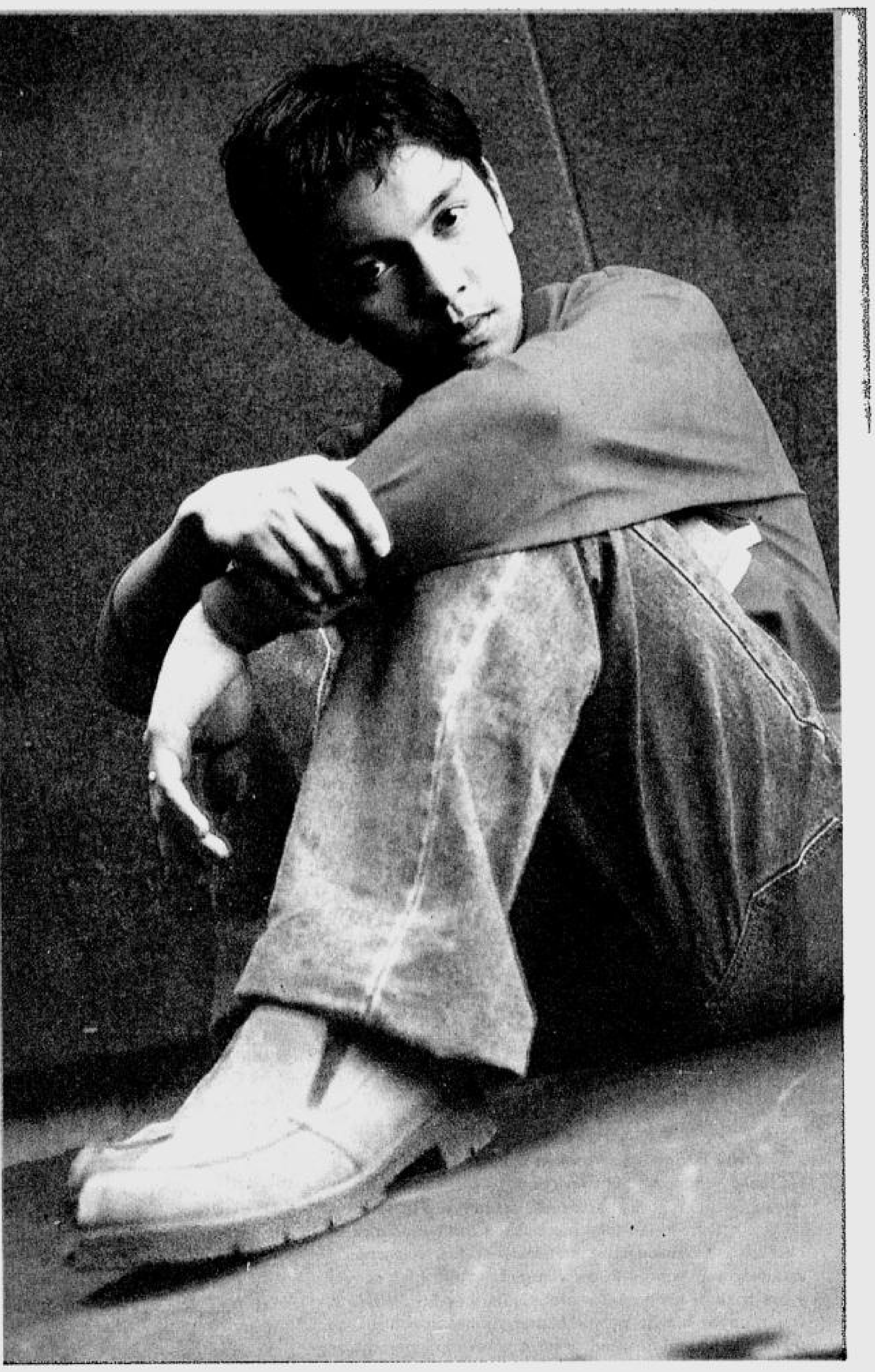
Unlike actors who draw on their own experiences to bring out and project the desired emotions, Carlo insists he just takes what he needs from the script and let them just flow out from him. He himself can't explain it. "The character comes out when you read the script," he confesses with a hint of wonder, "*Kagaya noong sa* 'Bata, Bata,' I would feel that I was so angry at my mother, but I still love her so much."

Forget the rudiments of Method acting; they won't apply. Digging into his family background to see any angst and frustrations submerged under his psyche won't help. The boy appears to have a very happy, ordinary family life. Unlike "*Bata, Bata*'s" conflicted adolescent, he has no screaming sessions or late-night from-the-heart outpourings of resentment.

The youngest of three siblings, Carlo says he has always been very close to his parents. "Even when I was a baby, they took me everywhere. *Sa hirap at ginhawa, magkasama kami*. Even when we didn't have a car."

Today, his dad, a former motor shop manager, now manages him full time. But it was during one of those typical simple "*lakads*" in those pre-celebrity days that Carlo caught the eye of a talent scout. Father, mother, and then cherubic seven-year-old were about to the climb the stairs of the LRT.

With his latest acting award for 'Bagong Buwan,' Carlo Aquino is establishing himself as one of the most gifted and versatile young actors in town



Carlo is serious about getting into his roles

"Someone asked my father, '*Gusto niyo bang mag-*commercial *ang anak n'yo*?' I got scared, cried and ran up the LRT stairs! My mom followed me. Dad talked to the man. I just kept saying, '*Ayoko po. Ayoko po*.'"

Fortunately for the soon-to-be budding actor, the Sunlight commercial where he spent one whole day of shooting running around and playing with other kids turned out to be a fun experience. More commercials followed. As he grew older, the ads started capitalizing on his boy-next-door looks. It was only a matter of time before, with dad and mom, he trooped to ABS-CBN to audition for "*Ang TV*" and was accepted.

Being part of the network's stable of talents soon led to guest appearances, Today, he appears regularly in two programs: in "*Sa Puso Ko'y Iingatan Ka*," as a matriarch's feudal servant serving time for his poor father's debt; and in "G-mik," the life and times of Pinoy Gen-Y, where his squeaky clean character is so wholesome that dirt doesn't even seem to touch him.

"*Bagong Buwan*" and "*Bata, Bata*" changed all that. "*Bata, Bata*" had an infuriated Vilma Santos slapping him in one emotionally charged scene where the shocked mother discovers her class-cutting son playing pool in a billiards hall. The scene took six takes. "*Ang lakas sumampal ni* Tita Vi," he lets out a low whistle. "I thought my cheeks would fall off!" In "*Bagong Buwan*," he romped over bushes and dirt roads with an armalite, sweat, dust, and eventually blood blackening his pretty-boy features. The costume helped a lot in his internalization. "When I felt how dirty my clothes were, I really got into the role."

"*Buwan*" director Marilou Diaz-Abaya made sure his actor was prepared in other ways. The cast members playing Muslims underwent workshops where they were taught the fundamentals of Islamic religious prayers by actual Muslim priests. They also took lessons from the military on how to handle and use guns. Along with co-star Jericho Rosales, Carlo spent days crawling around with the Philippine Marines The military training was tough; one wrong posture or movement and he would be told by his trainor, "*Alam mo, patay ka na niyan*!"

Running around with guns waving in the air was still fun for him, though. What made him nervous was the prospect of acting with long-time idols Vilma Santos and Cesar Montano. Then there was the task of living up to the director's expectations. Like a high school student describing a highly respected but intimidating teacher, Carlo confesses that "*Bata, Bata*" director Chito Roño really kept him on his toes.

He's taking it easy these days. His two TV shows and classes at the ABS-CBN Distance Learning Center keep him busy. It wouldn't be long, though, before another movie comes his way. And this actor, who looks up to Montano, Christopher de Leon, Al Pacino, and Nicolas Cage (among others), sounds like he's flexing his growing acting legs.

"*Ayoko lang gumawa ng* drama *na* movie. *Gusto ko rin iyong mga* action *at* drama. *Para maging* versatile."

With that natural acting talent that seems to come so effortlessly, he's actually already on his way.

...from page 3

cially remember a particular habit of his. "When I find the class boring, just to shake things up a bit, I argue with the teacher," William recounts.

From his original choice as a doctor, his career plans changed in high school. During his first three years, he became involved in a social outreach organization called AKAY. Its members taught subjects such as English and Math to public school students.. William became involved with the Tulong Dunong Scholarship Program as a tutor for English and Public Speaking. Discovering that he was adept in both, he contemplated a career in law. However, his parents' dislike of lawyers somewhat dissuaded him. He recalls a particular conversation over dinner after he had openly expressed his plans. "I remember we started talking about my career and they (my parents) told me that lawyers are liars."

William finally decided on a career late in fourth year high school. While he applied for Biochemistry at the University of the Philippines, he resolved to take Philosophy at the Ateneo. In that same year, he joined the Ateneo Debaters because "it was somewhat connected to my career choice," as William says. He realized that debating would teach him certain skills for his future career.

His first year was discouraging, to say the least. After his very first tournament, the adjudicator approached William and told him that he "stuck out like a sore thumb."

In a touch of irony, William faced that same adjudicator two years later. This time, they were opponents at the National Debate Championships in 1999. William's team won that debate and eventually clinched the top spot. Also, William was recognized as the number two debater in the Philippines. After the tournament, he approached a particular opponent and said to him, "Remember what you told me two years ago, that I stuck out like a sore thumb." The two then started laughing.

Despite his numerous achievements in debating, William considers his studies as his greatest achievement. He has finished his undergraduate studies ahead of schedule, 3 1/2 years to be exact. He says, "I'm very proud of what I've done in my studies, not so much because I finished it in 3 1/2 years but I've actually found a course that I've loved." In fact, he loves his course, Philosophy, so much that he is willing to delay a promising future in law.

Instead of entering law school after college, he is pursuing a Masters in Philosophy. As William explains, "I'm taking my masters in Philosophy for the plain and simple reason that I love Philosophy. I want one more year."

This early, he is already realizing that goal. While his batch mates are busy preparing for graduation in March, he is taking advanced units for his master's degree.

Not only that, he is also assuming the role of a teaching assistant for a basic Philosophy course.

His outgoing role as president of the Ateneo Debate Society adds to his already cramped list of responsibilities. He is currently guiding the future of the Debate Education Program, which he helped conceptualize. This program aims to promote debate among schools and universities, especially among public schools. The Ateneo Debate Society is planning to take the Ateneo Debate Education Program a step further by applying for endorsement and accreditation from the Commission on Higher Education (CHED),

Asked whether he envisions the Debate Education Program as his legacy, William answers, "I don't want to call it my legacy. It's just one of the programs we come up with in the debate society and as president, that's my job." This year, it has gone to provinces such as Baguio, Dumaguete, Zamboanga, and Cagayan de Oro.

"I don't want to think of myself as a chameleon, that when I'm not debating I'm not myself," says William. "I carry a lot of characteristics as a debater to other areas." He shares that debating has transformed him as a person. It has given him a certain attitude for excellence or in his own words, "the drive to do more all the time." In high school, he had difficulty balancing his extracurricular activities with his academics, and the latter suffered. In college, on the other hand, William has consistently been a Dean's Lister since second year.

Graduation marks the end of his career as a student debater. Fortunately for him, he has Philosophy to fill the void: "My philosophy in life I got from Philosophy, of course. It's a basic openness to reality and whenever you have a basic openness to reality, when you continue asking yourself questions, you never stop learning."

One for the "Old Girls"

By Bambi Harper and Millette Ocampo

An Assumption reunion in the Cojuangcos' Bacolod hacienda brings back wonderful memories, and provides an opportunity for some collective philantrophy

OU HAVE to understand that we grew up together, dark and fair, short and tall, fat and lean, a band of sisters doomed to be known as "Old Girls" whether you were 18 or 80 – as long as you had grown up under the shelter of the rain trees that shaded the paths in the convent of the Assumption. But here we were, gathered at the airport on a gloomy Friday with threats of rain, to take a brief flight to Bacolod for our class reunion. It was the second time our gracious classmate Gretchen Oppen Cojuangco invited us for a weekend sojourn at Hacienda Balbina in Pontevedra.

At Bacolod's airport, we were joined by Ana Marie Gonzalvez who had driven all the way from Bais beaming at us together with Maripi Alvarez from Bacolod, and Marilou Cacho and Lucy Valderrama, who had taken the ferry from Iloilo.

At the hacienda, we gleefully picked rolled papers with room numbers tossed in a bottle to arbitrarily distribute ourselves in the many comfortable rooms prepared for us. This divided us into four to six and sometimes seven to a room, sharing bathrooms, mattresses, and tolerating minor idiosyncrasies of roommates.

Over the welcome lunch (and other lunch and dinners) when we weren't reminiscing, we compared notes on our different medical prescriptions. You had to laugh; no more talk of boyfriends, lovers (perhaps in the past tense), husbands and children, but symptoms and young doctors who called you "Tita." You can imagine therefore our conscience struggling against our gluttonous tendencies as we surveyed not three but four tables laden with food.

In the afternoon, we strolled the vast grounds and visited the ivy-walled adobe chapel built to clebrate the 25th wedding anniversary of Gretchen and husband Danding. Walking further, we chanced upon the quiet loveliness of a Monet-like pond complete with lilies and a bow bridge, tucked away at one far end of the garden.

Later in the afternoon, we heard Mass at Our Lady of the Holy Rosary Church, which the Cojuangcos helped build. On our way back, we stopped at the construction site of the Franciscan Sisters of St. Anthony's future home for Pontevedra's street children. There we met Sisters Reinaldi and Dominga, who have the enormous task, with the support and generous help of Danding and Gretchen, of providing these children with a home and education.

Marixi Rufino-Prieto, Vicky Paraiso-Cruz, Gretchen Oppen-Cojuangco and Lilia Icasiano-Silao in the mountains

In the evening, we indulged in another delicious meal and had to walk after dinner to feel lighter before bedtime, which was sometime between 1 and 2 a.m., and for a handful just after the crack of dawn.

The next day, feeling like high school girls on a field trip, we drove up to Aral-al, a highland halfway up the foothills of Mt. Kanlaon. Here the Cojuangcos have replanted the mountainsides with Baguio pines, harnessing natural springs to provide water for terraces of mil flores, vari-colored hibiscus, orchids and bromeliads. As Ponchit Enrile, the ever efficient overseer-manager explained, all the Cojuangco lands are planted to fruit bearing trees whether mangoes, *lanzones,* jackfruit, durian and experimental flora. Our picnic there was the very best. Exhilarated by the fresh sweet air and an open panorama of Mt. Kanlaon, we partook of fresh mouth-watering provincial dishes and a roasted calf. Mr. Sorbetero with his mango, coffee, macapuno-*langka* and banana ice cream, was also on hand to scoop our favorite ice delights. We laughed and ran and played the games of our childhood. We played Bataille, which we had not done in decades and discovered we were still good at it despite flab and slightly rounded bellies.

Lydia Ramos-Aquino, Marissa Beech-Batacan, Bee Rodriguez Martinez, Lucy Lacson Valderama, Menchu Villareal, Maida de los Santos-Sobretodo, Emy Malong, Patchot Francisco-Bermejo and Ruby Villanueva-Precilla play bataille

Coming back down to the realities of our times, we dropped by the temporary shelter of the street children of Pontevedra and were welcomed with a sign, "Welcome Mommy Gretchen." Our brief interaction with those children reminded us to be grateful for the many blessings we take for granted.

Time sped away all too fast and on Sunday we were up early (not necessarily bright) to take the ferry to Iloilo for the last leg of our weekend adventure.

At Iloilo, we dropped by and greeted the Assumption nuns who lovingly welcomed us with a hearty *merienda.* While overdosing on garlicky *pancit molo* and Assumption tarts, we listened as Sister Melania recounted her miraculous cure, which she attributed to Our Lady of Lipa. Our visit to Assumption Iloilo soothed our emotions and brought to the fore our bonding because Assumption was the navel of our togetherness. And with bravura, we sang our school song side by side.

The lunch hosted by Marilou and Lucy was also a gastronomical event at the Breakthrough restaurant. We went into rapture over rice sautéed with *taba ng talangka* and garlic, black marlin *ginataan* wrapped in *gabi* leaves, sweet scallops baked in butter and garlic still in their shells, lush, large oysters, *kinilaw na tanigue,* and the discovery of the trip: a grilled fish called *managat* that is to die for and warrants several return trips to Iloilo.

Back in Manila, exhausted, overfed and happy classmates exchanged tight hugs and sincere thank-yous. It seemed that in the bosom of Gretchen's home in Pontevedra and in the halls of the old Assumption, we had drunk from the fountain of our youth. As Pachot and Lydia, wickedly mimicking the *tisays* in the group, would say, *"Hasta pronto*—let's do this more often!"

Noteworthy

Almost 100 Years of Solicitude

Good works define Dr. Salvador Araneta's lifetime, recently recalled in celebrations that marked his birth centennial

HE founded schools, set up a local and an international airline, and pioneered in the flour industry and soy bean extraction as well as in the manufacture of electric motors, animal feeds and animal vaccines.

Dr. Salvador Z. Araneta, an educator, fiery nationalist, economist and industrialist, was recently feted with a series of tributes to mark the centenary of his birth. The former Atenista and law graduate of the University of Sto. Tomas and Harvard University founded the Feati Institute of Technology and the Gregorio Araneta University Foundation, which he named after his father, a distinguished lawyer who played a key role in Emilio Aguinaldo's revolutionary government. Converting the university into a foundation, Dr. Araneta gallantly endowed GAUF with one-sixth of his personal wealth.

The Feati Institute of Technology, which Araneta founded with his wife, Victoria Lopez, was set up to service the needs of the Far Eastern Air Transport Inc., the first carrier in the Philippines after the war. As early as 1945,the airline was flying regularly to Hong Kong, Shanghai and San Francisco. The airline took the place of the Iloilo Negros Air Express Company (INAEC), the very first airline in the country founded by Dr. Araneta and Eugenio Lopez, but which was totally destroyed during the war.

In 1946, together with his brothers Vicente and Ramon, Dr. Araneta organized the Araneta Institute of Agriculture. Originally meant to equip GI veterans with productive skills, it would later become the first private university to offer a four-year course in Forestry and a five-year course in Veterinary Medicine.

Araneta: "Molding hearts for the country and souls for God."

The man who set up basic industries such as the RFM Corporation, Republic Soya, Feati Industries, AIA Feed Mills and AIA Biological Laboratories urged entrepreneurs to concentrate on basic and heavy industries producing capital goods rather than consumer items. Acknowledged as the Father of Filipinization of Retail Trade, Dr. Araneta co-founded the National Economic Protectionism Association (NEPA) to help local retailers and infant industries.

Dr. Araneta was also a religious and charitable man, who supported catechism instruction for young people and promoted the family rosary crusade of Fr. Patrick Peyton. With his wife, he built the White Cross to provide temporary shelter for children whose parents had tuberculosis, a disease prevalent in his time.

A prolific writer whose speeches and writings have been compiled in three volumes, Dr. Araneta once wrote, "I can think of no better spiritual way to prolong my life than to participate actively and directly in molding not only minds and hearts for our land, but also hearts for our country and souls for our God."

Zardo Austria

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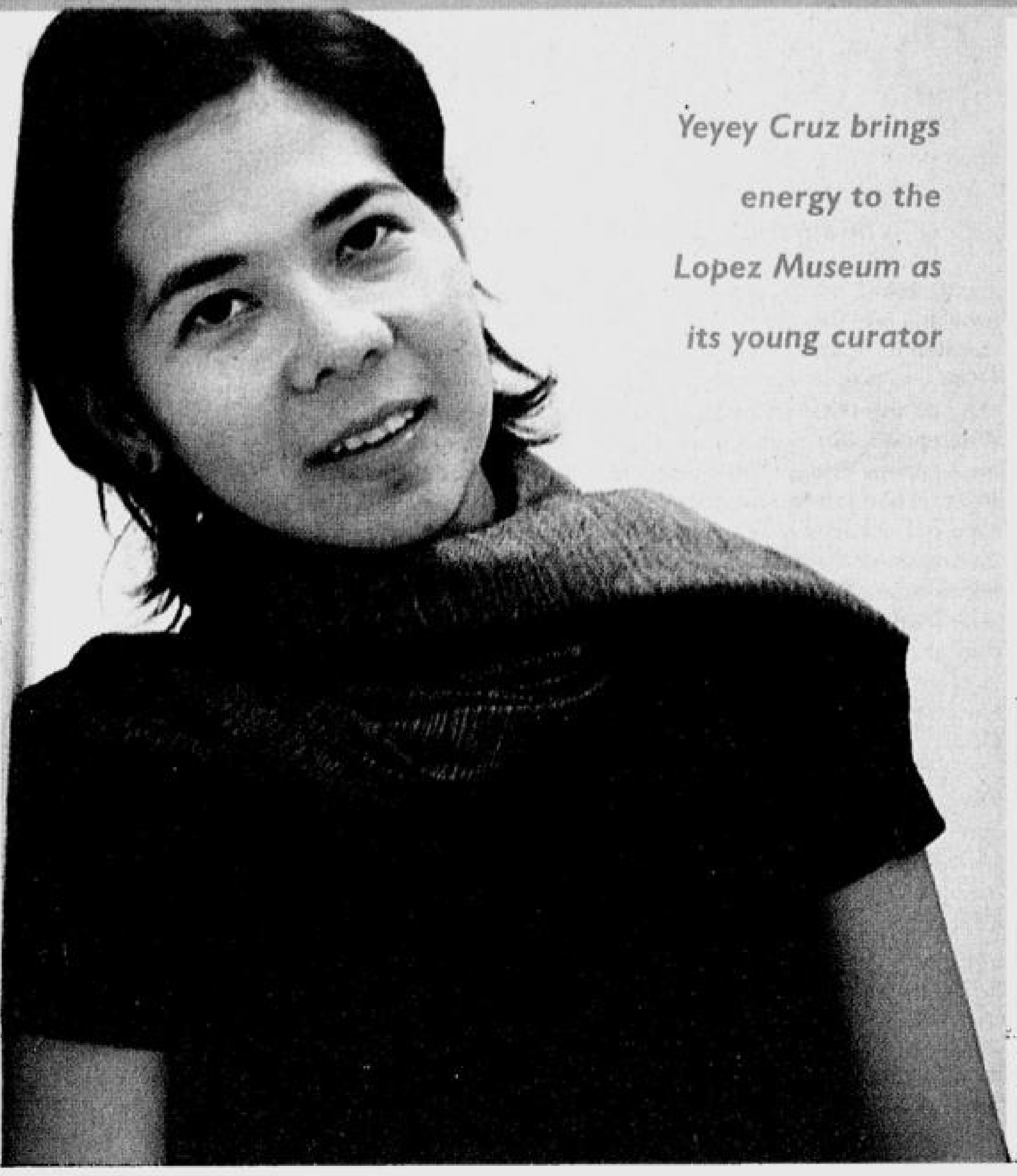
Movers and Shakers

By Natalia F. Diaz

An Eye for New Art

IN contrast to the stillness of the Lopez Museum with its aged treasures and historical documents, is its independent curator Yeyey Cruz's youthful energy and insatiable curiosity for fresh ideas. Cruz confesses to being talkative by nature, revealing an uninhibited eloquence when expressing thoughts on art works that have inspired her.

Though she would be the first to admit that she can neither "paint nor create," Yeyey's life has been shaped by a lifelong passion for art. After taking several courses in Philippine Art History at the University of the Philippines, she landed her first job as an education assistant at the Metropolitan Museum. One day, she had the chance to view a particular work by German contemporary artist Joseph Beuys, which the museum had brought in. "That was my turning point that peaked my interest in contemporary art," she shares. "It was the turning point of having an art work looking back at you."



Yeyey Cruz brings energy to the Lopez Museum as its young curator

MIKE ALQUINTO

Yeyey pursued her MA in Curating at the very exclusive Royal College of Art in London, where she was the only Filipino in a small, select class of mostly European students. It was here were she truly explored several aspects of contemporary art, being part of a progressive academe that encouraged their students to travel to different parts of the world to study works of various artists. They were even funded by the school to put up their own student exhibits in a city of their choice.

In spite of being immersed in an environment that placed her at the forefront of the ever-evolving art scene, Yeyey decided to come back to Manila, unarguably a periphery in the global art landscape. "I guess it was this great wish to share what I had experienced and learned with more people," she explains. Though she admits to being idealistic then, she shrugs off the hackneyed conclusion that she came back in the hopes of changing the local art scene. "I don't think I can change the art scene, no one can— or at least not one person can. Change can only be prompted by a unique desire to engage with the artists who are the makers, the people who see it, and the patrons who make things possible with the society we all move in with a history we continue to grapple with." She still carries that vision today as the Curatorial Consultant for the Lopez Museum, busying herself with managing the treasures of the Lopez Collection, as well as conceptualizing exhibits for the museum. "Museums are a repository of memories, but they're very static," she says. "I'm more into bringing society into the museum, or bringing the museum out. We have to bring audiences to view new art." For the Lopez Museum, she has worked with dynamic young artists like Nona Garcia, Norberto Roldan and Kawayan de Guia on their exhibits.

Outside the museum, Yeyey collaborates with other gifted local artists to come up with innovative shows for the viewing public. She worked Freddie Aquilizan for "Dream Blankets," part of the "Spin" show at the CCP. The exhibit was inspired by the ethnic T'boli tribe that weaves their blanket designs according to what they behold in dreams. For the show, the artist created a wall of folded blankets and played collected voices of different people narrating their dreams, heard in the background through concealed speakers.

Yeyey does not deny that she has endured criticisms for some of her work, yet she doesn't mind them, adding, "That is what art is supposed to get—a reaction." She does disclose a genuine wish for more people in Manila to be more open to new art media such as video, which is not yet fully explored in the local art sphere. "It's sad that some people are not able to see the deeper level of some of the works."

In spite of the challenges, Yeyey remains optimistic, preserving an inspired outlook in pushing the creative process beyond the borders. "Work, whatever it is, shapes all of us," she adds, "I think it helps me spiritually knowing that some of the art I appreciate actually seeks some good, some change in the world."

Artwatch

By Jonathan Best

Keeping Faith in the Filipino Artist

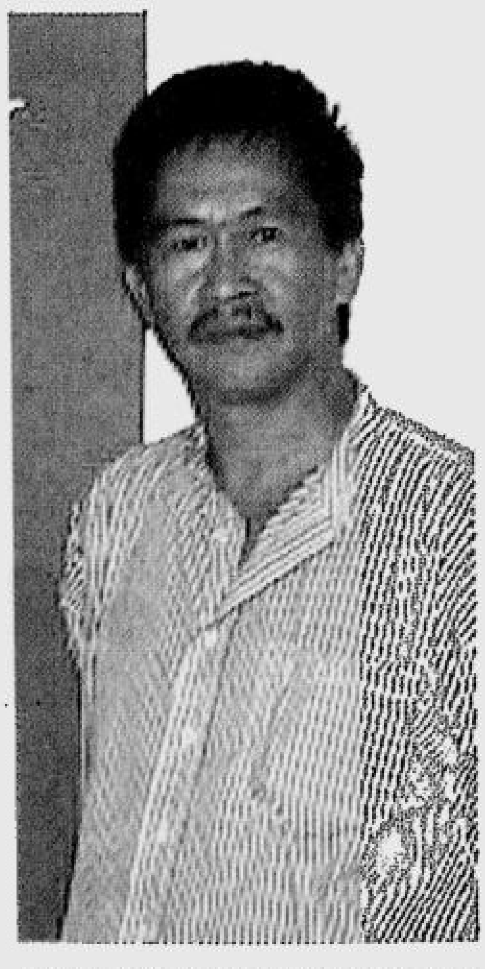
HE might as well be Pinoy, the way Malaysian curator Valentine Willie knows Philippine art and Filipino artists, thanks to his many trips to Manila. Willie is the principal curator of Faith and The City, a major exhibition of contemporary Filipino artists at the Metropolitan Museum on Roxas Boulevard. The show runs until March 25.

The exhibition has been traveling throughout Southeast Asia for the past year, opening in Singapore in October 2000 and moving on to Kuala Lumpur, Penang and Bangkok. Over a hundred works by Filipino artists, among them Ang Kiukok, Onib Olmedo and Mark Justiniani, revolve around the twin topics of religion and modern urbanization. The works display riveting images of despair, violence and cynicism in reaction to urban squalor, political corruption, religious superstition and intolerance. However this dark mood is offset by sensitive works that show the Filipino's seemingly innate ability to cope with appalling circumstances with humor and affection.

So how can a non-Filipino curator develop such a broad knowledge of contemporary Filipino art? Willie has been collecting art since he was a college student in London 25 years ago, and became interested in Filipino art when he worked in Manila as a corporate lawyer in the 1980s. He jokingly attributes his initial interest in Filipino painters to the fact that he lived on Victorio Edades Street in Legaspi Village, Makati when he was first here. All the streets in that section of Legaspi Village are still named after artists.

Willie's many trips to Manila are hectic forays into new art galleries as he cultivates relationships with dealers, up-and-coming artists and private collectors. Unlike in Europe or North America, a great deal of important art in the Philippines is still in private hands, not public museums. To acquire full knowledge of Philippine art, it has been necessary for Willie to become acquainted with old families with their heirloom pieces, as well as with wealthy young people with their expanding collections of contemporary art.

How can a non-Filipino curator put together a show that reflects social conditions in the Philippines? By living in the country, collecting its art and hobnobbing with artists and private collectors. Valentine Willie of Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia shows how art knows no boundaries



Willie was born and raised a Roman Catholic in Sandakan, Sabah at the northern tip of Borneo, which he likes to refer to as "almost Philippines." There are now over 200,000 Filipinos living in Sabah, which is only a few hours by banca from Tawi-Tawi and the southern Philippines. Willie's great-grandfather acquired his unusual Western surname from a Christian missionary who once ran a school for Iban boys at the mouth of the Sarawak River in southwestern Borneo. His family roots are in Borneo and Peninsular Malaysia yet he feels very much at home with Filipinos. Willie's walls are lined with paintings by Southeast Asian artists while his bookshelves spill over with a very impressive collection of art reference books and exhibition catalogs.

Willie retired from his successful law practice in the mid-1990s to devote himself entirely to curating exhibitions and running his own art gallery in Kuala Lumpur. Valentine Willie Fine Art is located in Kuala Lumpur's trendy Bangsar Baru district amid coffee shops, boutiques and a wonderful open-air weekend produce market.

Willie also manages art galleries for two of the finest hotels in Bali, Indonesia: The Chedi in Ubud and The Legian in Kuta. Contemporary Filipino art is a major source for many of his exhibitions and installations. This May he will mount in Bali an exhibition of new works by Ben Cabrera, one of the Philippines' most outstanding artists. The show is timed to coincide with the highly acclaimed Philip Morris painting competition and award ceremonies for Southeast Asia.

He is drawn to contemporary Filipino art, says Willie, because, like himself, it is dynamic and bridges the intellectual space between Asia and the West. In his show Faith and The City, Christian rituals are transfused with indigenous symbols of Asian shamanism and native magic. Filipino artists have expertly documented the onslaught of teeming shopping malls, urban squalor and dehumanizing modern technology, now so pervasive throughout East Asia.

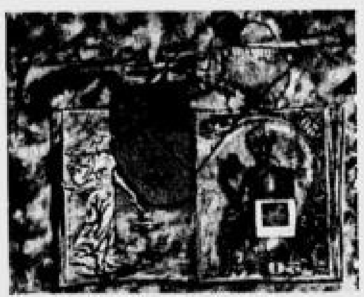
Willie has put together a show which clearly reflects social conditions in the Philippines. Yet he has managed to choose paintings and installations, which transcend local issues. Despite the predominance of Roman Catholic symbolism and Filipino imagery, the paintings and installations have a universal human resonance and could easily be reflections on life in overcrowded urban centers anywhere in the world.

The show is accompanied by a beautifully designed full color catalog which contains three short essays by art historians Professor Emmanuel Torres and Dr. Ana P. Labrador and a humorous vignette by savvy social commentator Jessica Zafra. The essays articulate the themes running through the exhibition and describe the urban and spiritual chaos that have overwhelmed most of Manila and its residents.

This Week

Art

Don Larkin, an American printmaker and an accomplished ceramicist, holds a solo exhibit of monoprints at The Drawing Room, 1007 Metropolitan Avenue, Makati City until March 20.


Imelda Cajipe-Endaya's "Clarissa Ocampo" at the CCP

Women: A Collection of 23 Female Portraits, an exhibit of portraits by Butch Baluyut featuring Gloria Romero, Kuh Ledesma, Conchitina Bernardo, Susan Arnaiz and Imee Marcos, until March 23 at The Alcove, Filipinas Heritage Library, Makati Avenue, Makati City.

Defining Lines, an exhibit of works by the painting and mixed media art students in the beginning, intermediate and advanced classes of Alliance Francaise from March 18-27 at Alliance Francaise's Totalfinaelf Gallery. Proceeds from the exhibit will be donated to ABS-CBN Foundation Bantay Kalikasan's Save La Mesa Watershed Project. For details, call 895-7585.

Re-Imaging People Power I and II, an exhibit that pays tribute to the triumph of people over the conjugal dictatorship and the highly corrupt idol of the masses, until March 31 at the CCP Pasilyo Vicente Manansala.

Limbag, an exhibit of old prints from the collection of former GSIS president and general manager Federico Pascual, extended until March 29 at the GSIS Museum, Financial Center, Pasay City.

Alan Sycip, an exhibit of recent works plus a selection culled from his recent exhibit at Crucible Gallery, until March 31 at Le Soufflé The Fort. For details, call 887-5106.

Homecoming, paintings and sculptures of Filipino artists exhibited in the recently concluded 16th Asian International Art Exhibition in China, until March 31 at the Ayala Museum, Makati City.

***Batek:* Traditional Tattoos in a Kalinga Village,** an exhibit of old and new photographs, actual tattoo instruments and sculptures by Ikin Salvador at the UP Vargas Museum, Diliman, QC until March 30.

Siyudad, an exhibit of cityscapes from the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas collection at the Metropolitan Museum, Central Bank Complex, Roxas Boulevard, Manila until March 31.

***Saltik Pintura ng* Angono,** a group exhibit by Angono artists headed by Orville Tiamzon every Saturday of March at The Outlet Yard, 1480 Quezon Avenue. The group also holds an interactive workshop for those who wish to learn how to paint. For details, call 373-3528.

Music

Reuel Eleazar Capili Tica will give his third and final **voice recital** as a prerequisite to a Master's degree in Voice on March 19, 7 p.m. at the UP College of Music Abelardo Hall. He will perform the opera "Amelia Al Ballo" by Gian Carlo Menotti. Admission is free. For details, call 288-8274.

Pinoy tenors take center stage at the CCP Little Theater

Every Friday and Saturday night this month, The Outlet Yard (1480 Quezon Avenue) hosts a **free concert** for all shoppers featuring upcoming bands from different schools. Show starts at 9 p.m.

The Cultural Center of the Philippines **Special Concerts Series I** kicks off with a unique program featuring countertenors Mark Anthony Carpio, Christopher Borela and Eudenice Palaruan on March 19, 7:30 p.m. at the CCP Little Theater. Assisting artist on the harp and the piano is Lourdes de Leon Gregorio. An audience dialogue with the artists follows after the concert. For details, call 832-1125 loc. 1604 or 832-3878.

An all-American repertoire will be the featured music for the **PPO Concert Series X** on March 22, 8 p.m. at the CCP Main Theater. Multi-awarded concert pianist Jovianney Emmanuel Cruz is the guest artist. The concert, under the baton of Maestro Ruggero Barbieri, commemorates the Sept. 11 World Trade Center attacks. For details, call 551-7930 and 832-3878.

Paco Park Presents an evening of Schubert, Schumann, Muyco, Kasilag and OPM music featuring baritone Marvin Gayramon and pianist Jonathan Arevalo Coo on March 22, 6 p.m. at the Paco Park in San Marcelino, Manila. "Paco Park Presents" is shown every Wednesday at 10 p.m. on NBN-4.

Onstage

The **Fabulous Murray Raine Puppets,** a dynamic puppet cabaret production utilizing over 25 vibrant marionettes, glove and rod puppets, will perform at the Alabang Town Center on March 17 and at the Glorietta 4 Park, Ayala Center Makati on March 22-24.

Puppet magic with Murray Raine at the Alabang Town Center

Atbp

Likhaan: The University of the Philippines Creative Writing Center will hold **Love Out Loud,** a walk-in poetry reading contest on March 22, 7-10 p.m. at Cravings Restaurant, Katipunan Avenue, QC. Contestants will read an original love poem before a panel of judges. Each poet may read only one poem in English or Filipino but must be no more than 30 lines. Contestants must prepare 10 copies of their poem, which will be given to the judges before being read on stage. Tickets for those who wish to read is P100 and P50 for those who wish to listen. For inquiries, call 922-1830.

Isis International-Manila invites women's groups and individual women, to join **Wired Fridays**, an e-mail and Internet training workshop on March 22, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. at the Bahay ni Isis, 3 Marunong St., Barangay Central, Quezon City. Priority will be given to grassroots women and women's organizations. Basic computer knowledge (such as MS Office) is required. For details, call Florian Taldo at 435-3405 or 435-3408 local 103.

A seminar on **Karma and Reincarnation: Transcending our Past, Transforming our Future** by Summit Lighthouse Study Group will be held on March 19, 6:30 p.m. at No. 1 Gen. Atienza St. cor. Gen. Lim, San Antonio Village, Pasig City. For details, call 631-4052.

UPU International Letter-Writing Competition, open to students and non-students who are Filipino citizens and not more than 15 years old. Entries should be in the form of a letter, handwritten clearly using ballpen with blue or black ink on a long or short white typewriting paper or white-ruled pad paper. The composition should be recent and original letters of about 500 to 1,000 words in length with the subject "Letter to someone (that) you miss." Typewritten entries will not be accepted. On the upper right hand corner of each page of entry, the contestant should write his name, age, sex, grade or year, name of school (if a student) and home address. Send entries through PhilPost addressed to Tirso Paglicawan Jr., chief, Media and Public Affairs/editor in chief, The PhilPost Journal c/o Marcy Peñafuerte or Sarah F. Tayao, OER, Office of the Postmaster General, PhilPost, 1000 Manila. Deadline is March 27.

Indelible images from "*Batek*," on exhibit at the UP Vargas Museum

***Kinilaw* to Shing-A-Ling: Filipino Food in History and Society**, a lecture to be given by Doreen Fernandez on March 20, 12 noon until 2 p.m. at Fernando's, Rockwell Club. For details, call Fanny San Pedro at 631-2417 or 449-2355.

The Filipinas Heritage Library will host **Writing for Glossies: The Feature Story Workout** on March 20 at 6 p.m. with Maya Calica, editor in chief of Seventeen, as facilitator. For registration, call 892-1801.

Putting Up a Christian Preschool seminar will be held on March 23, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the ACCM Building, 102 Valero St., Salcedo Village, Makati City. Seminar fee is P1,750 inclusive of lunch, snacks, certificate and handouts. For reservations, call 823-2615.

The Daily Manila Shimbun Culture Center and KMC Magazine recently launched an annual **short story contest in Filipino**. All writers can send up to two original and unpublished short stories in Filipino, at least 4,000 words and not to exceed 40,000 words. Send entries along with a sealed envelope containing the name of the author, the title of the short story/stories, address and contact numbers. The envelope should be marked with his/her pen name. All entries should reach the DMS Culture Center of KMC Magazine Editorial Office at Montivar Bldg., 34 Jupiter St., Bel-Air Village, Makati City or postmarked not later than March 31. For inquiries, call 897-2013.

Bluehearts Org., Inc. will have its **Holy Week Cultural Encounters** on the following locations and dates: Sagada-Banaue, March 26-31 and Banaue-Batad on March 28-31. For details, call Erick (0919-8529413), Borj (0919-3194393 and 872-4989), Jules (0918-9432308 and 485-0280), Joevi (0917-2474675) or Milet (0919-5035463).

Jovianney Emmanuel Cruz stars in PPO Concert Series X

Powerbooks treats its customers to **Easter fun,** games, storytelling and face painting at Powerbooks Alabang on March 23 and 24 from 3-5 p.m. The afternoon will culminate with a grand Easter egg hunt, where the winner will take home a basketful of Golden Books goodies. Registration fee is P50. For inquiries, call 850-5662 to 63.

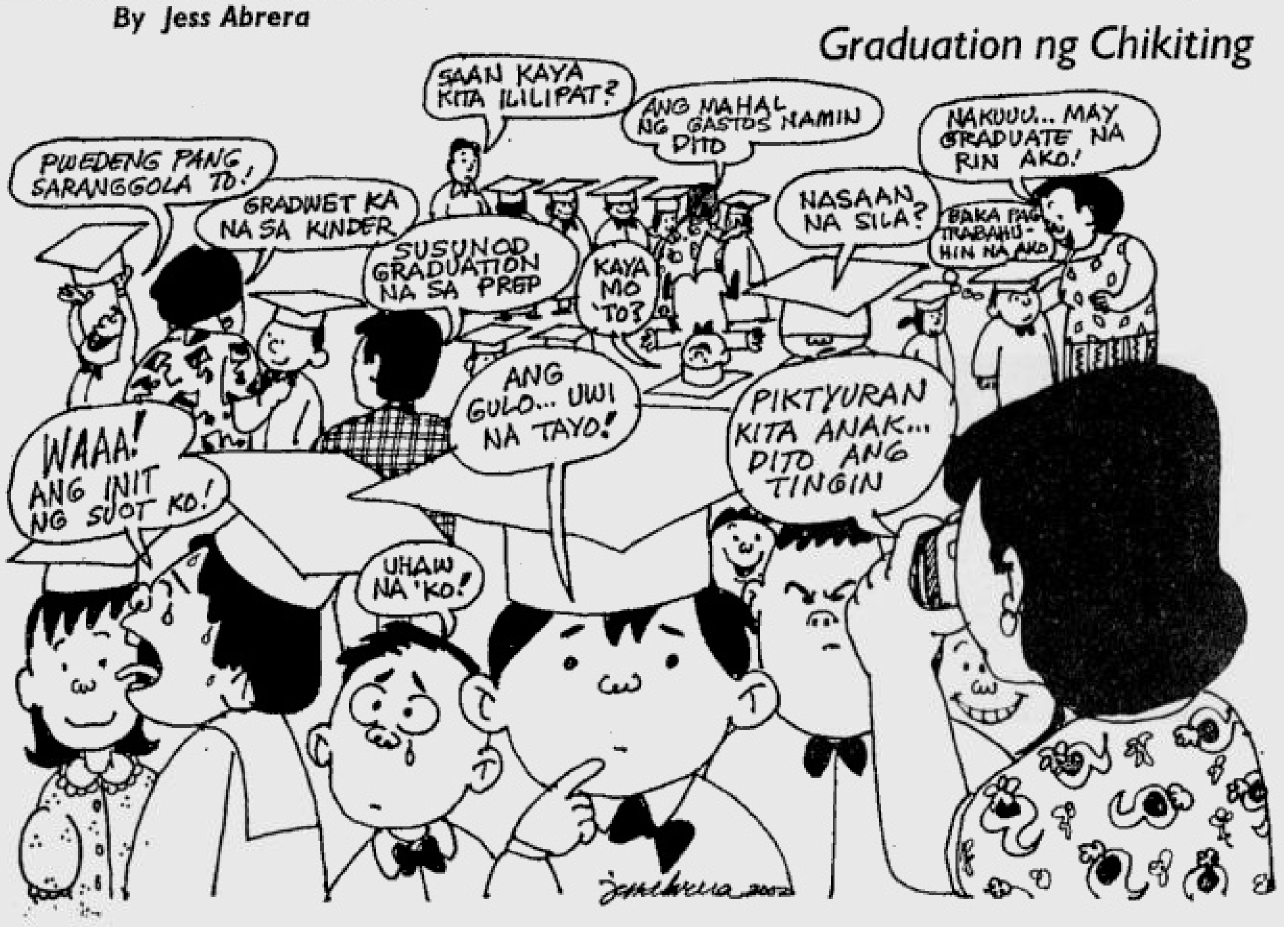
The **Reggie Aspiras School of Culinary Arts** located at the Bon Apetit, 3/F, Shangri-La Plaza Mall announces its classes for the month: Risotto (March 22); Pritchon Done My Way (March 23); Delicious White Chocolate Desserts (March 25).

Powerbooks Specialty Store is holding a **free career talk** on "Be Your Own Boss! Entrepreneurship as an Alternative" on March 20, 6-8 p.m. at Powerbooks Arnaiz. Butz Bartolome, president of GMB Franchise Developers, will guide participants on how to be an entrepreneur. Registration stars at 5:30 p.m. at the branch customer service desk. For details, call 844-4455 or 635-2898 to 99.

Pinoy Nga!

By Jess Abrera

Graduation ng Chikiting


PWEDENG PANG SARANGGOLA TO!
GRADWET KA NA SA KINDER
SAAN KAYA KITA ILILIPAT?
SUSUNOD GRADUATION NA SA PREP
ANG MAHAL NG GASTOS NAMIN DITO
KAYA MO 'TO?
NASAAN NA SILA?
NAKUUU... MAY GRADUATE NA RIN AKO!
BAKA PAG TRABAHUHIN NA AKO
WAAA! ANG INIT NG SUOT KO!
ANG GULO... UWI NA TAYO!
PIKTYURAN KITA ANAK... DITO ANG TINGIN
UHAW NA 'KO!
Jabrera 2002

For this week's bands and schedules call:

- Hard Rock Café (893-4662-65)
- Virgin Café : QC (926-7982)
- '70s Bistro: 46 Anonas St., QC (922-0492)
- Hobbit House: 1801 Mabini St., Malate, Manila (521-7604)
- Strumm's: El Pueblo, Ortigas (637-3009)

X-manila

Living Treasure of Davao, a photo/text exhibit on the life of civic leader Doña Carmen Marfori vda. de Soriano as part of a month-long celebration of the 65th Araw ng Dabaw, until March 31 at the Davao Museum, Insular Village I, Lanang, Davao City. For inquiries, call (082) 3008046.

Flora de Filipinas, a traveling exhibit featuring selected botanical plates by 19th century artists from Fr. Manuel Blanco's collection, until March 31 at the Museo De La Salle, Dasmariñas, Cavite. For details, call 523-7855.

The **Sunday Inquirer Magazine** welcomes listings of events in and outside Metro Manila. Please send announcements at least two weeks in advance, and include contact numbers for inquiries on schedules

The Word

By Fr. Ruben J. Villote

Lazarus

(Jn. 11:1-45)

Jesus promised that if only these spiritually dead persons believed in him, they would come back to life. But they will come to life only when Jesus enters the persons of the poor, and it is the poor who will "untie them to set them free"

LONG strips of linen were wrapped tightly around the corpse, fragrant spices packed between the cloth and the body to neutralize the stench of death and the head was bound with a linen napkin.

That was how the dead Lazarus was prepared for burial in John 11. In fact, Lazarus had already been dead and buried for four days when Jesus arrived on the scene.

When Jesus proceeded to call the dead man back to life, he saw to it that it was the name Lazarus he shouted out clearly or else all the dead men and women buried in that graveyard would have risen along with him.

And when Lazarus heard his name called out, he promptly appeared at the mouth of the burial-cave—but still strapped securely in his linen cloths. "Untie him and set him free!," Jesus ordered the people standing there. And when they did, it was only then that Lazarus (already alive but still "dead" and "imprisoned" in his burial shroud) began to know what it was to be alive and free, thanks to the action of the community that "untied" him to make him able to move from merely "being alive-but-dead" to "being truly alive and free."

Merely being alive-but-dead is like a person who is selfish that he is dead to the needs of others. (*Walang pakialam sa kapwa.*)

Merely being alive-but-dead is like one who is so insensitive to the feelings of others. *(Walang pakiramdam sa damdamin ng kapwa.)*

Merely being alive-but-dead is like the amoral and immoral, corrupt and unjust person who is dead to the values of honor, goodness and self-respect. *(Walang hiya.)*

Those who are "alive but dead" are those who wake up in the morning scared to face life, whose body might be "alive" but who feel bored, resentful and depressed about life, who find life meaningless and empty.

Jesus promised that if only these spiritually dead persons believed in him, they would come back to life. But they will come to life only when Jesus enters the persons of the poor, and it is the poor who will "untie them to set them free." If only the spiritually dead among us believed in Jesus in the persons of the poor. Only when we allow the poor to enter into our lives and touch our wounds could Jesus then heal our brokenness and fill us with new life: a new way of seeing things, a new way of relating with others, a new way of functioning and performing our tasks. And then we shall know what Jesus meant when he said: "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, although he is dead, will come to life."

Have an early Easter by trying this "Gentle Art of Blessing" by Pierce Pradervand. Raise the dead back to life by gently blessing the "alive but dead" people you encounter today:

"**On awakening**, bless this day, for it is already full of unseen good which your blessing will call forth; for to bless is to acknowledge the unlimited good that is embedded in the very texture of the universe, and awaiting each and all.

"**On crossing people in the street,** on the bus, in places of work and play, bless them. The peace of your blessing will accompany them on their way, and the aura of its gentle fragrance will be light to their path.

"**On meeting and talking to people,** bless them in their health, their work, their joy, their relationships to God, to themselves and others. Bless them in their abundance; their finances—bless them in every conceivable way; for such blessings not only sow seeds of healing but one day will spring forth as flowers of joy in the waste places of your own life.

"**When you pass a prison,** mentally bless its inmates in their innocence and freedom, their gentleness, pure essence and unconditional forgiveness; for one can only be prisoner of one's self image, and a free man can walk unshackled in the courtyard of a jail just as citizens of countries where freedom reigns can be prisoners when fear lurks in their thoughts.

"**When you pass a hospital,** bless its patients in their present wholeness; for even in their suffering, this wholeness awaits in them to be discovered. When your eyes behold a man in tears or seemingly broken by life, bless him in his vitality and joy; for the material senses present but the inverted image of the ultimate splendor and perfection which only the inner eye beholds.

"**As you walk,** bless the city in which you live, its government and teachers, its nurses and street sweepers, its children and bankers, its priests and prostitutes. The minute anyone expresses the least aggression or unkindness to you, respond with a blessing; bless them totally, sincerely, joyfully; for such blessings are a shield which protects them from the ignorance of their misdeed, and distracts the arrow that was aimed at you.

"To bless means to wish unconditionally total, unrestricted good for others and events from the deepest wellspring in the innermost chamber of your heart; it means to hallow, to hold in reverence, to behold with utter awe that which is always a gift from the Creator. He who is hallowed by your blessing is set aside, consecrated holy and whole. To bless is yet to invoke divine care upon, to think or speak gratefully for, to confer happiness upon—although we ourselves are never the bestower, but simply the joyful witness of Life's abundance.

"To bless all without discrimination of any sort is the ultimate form of giving because those you bless will never know from whence came the sudden ray of the sun that burst through the clouds of their skies, and you will rarely be a witness to the sunlight of their lives.

"When something goes completely askew in your day, some unexpected event knocks down your plans, burst into blessing; for life is teaching you a lesson, and the very event you believe to be unwanted will turn out well for you. Trials are blessings in disguise, and hosts of angels follow in their path.

"To bless is to acknowledge the omnipresent universal beauty hidden to material eyes; it is to activate the law of attraction which, from the farthest reaches of the universe, will bring into your life exactly what you need to experience and enjoy.

"It is impossible to bless and to judge. So hold constantly as a deep, hallowed, intoned thought that desire to bless; for truly then shall you become a peacemaker, and one day you shall—everywhere—behold the very face of God."

Celebrities

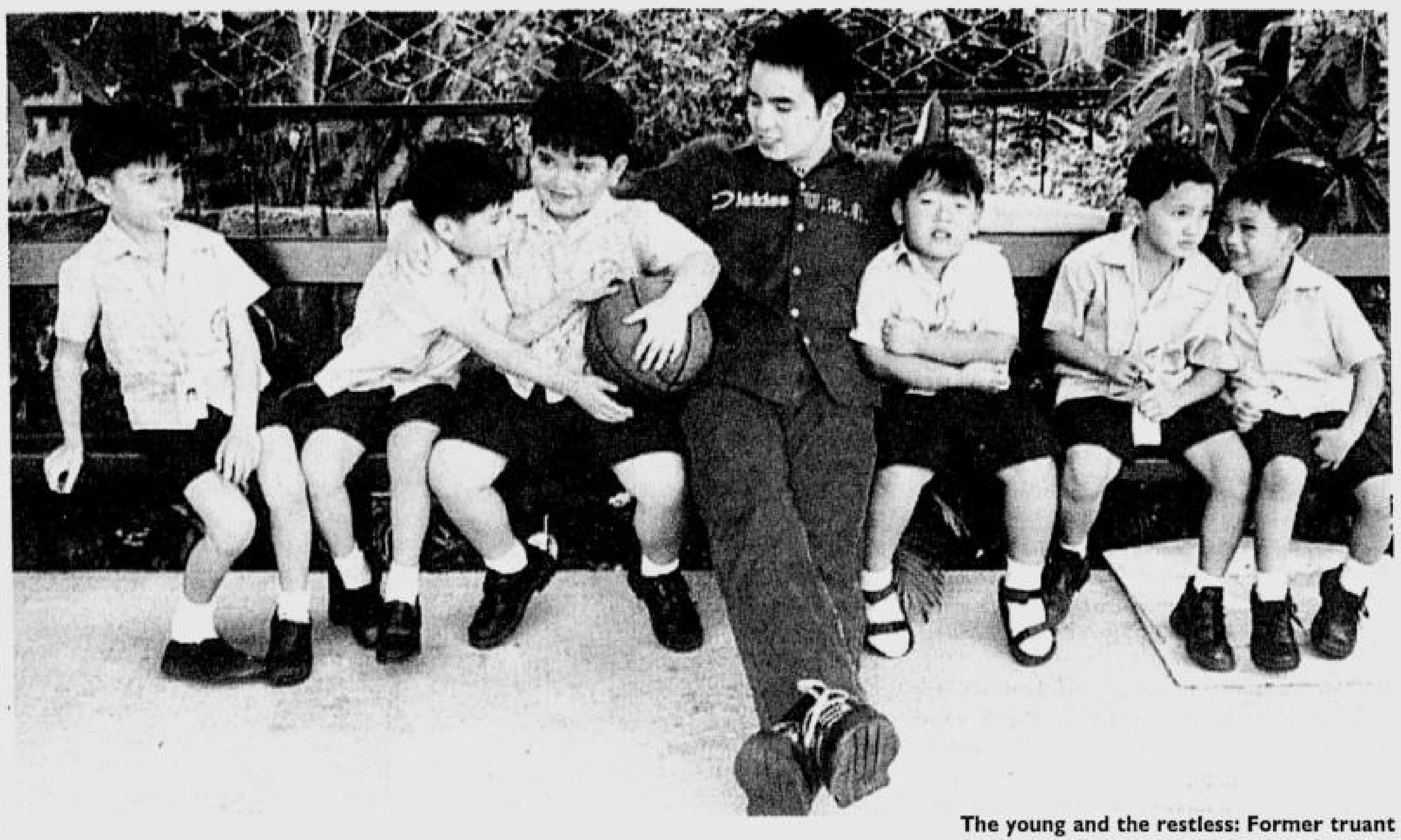
By Joy Rojas
Photographs by Mike Alquinto

Big Man on Campus

IF Onemig Bondoc ever made a mark in school, it was for all the time he spent outside the classroom. Notorious since he was in 7th grade at La Salle Greenhills, the actor cut class perennially, got into fights, and landed in the assistant principal's office so often his poor mother had to bail him out every other day. Though he claims he was "just some kid who wanted to have fun," his parents were hardly amused. His dad had him march back to school after catching him loitering around Robinson's Galleria during lunch break. And once when his mom picked him up, she was shocked to see her son's *barkada* smoking cigarettes outside the campus. "I said, 'My God, Mig, all your friends are smoking and they're so young!'" she exclaims. "And he said, 'Mommy, *tapos na ako diyan! Di ko kaya 'yan, nahihilo ako diyan!* (I'm over that; can't hack it, I get dizzy)'"

By the time he decided to get serious, it was too late: he failed three subjects in his freshman year and was forced to leave La Salle. "Even if I wanted a second chance, no one would accept me," says Onemig, who ironically, went on to become an A-student in Canada where he completed his high school. "When I came back here, I remembered thinking that there are so many students like me who really want to finish school but don't have that second chance. That's one of the reasons we decided to put up this school."

Founded in January 2000 by Wharton MBA graduate Mariano D. Bondoc Jr., his wife Miladel Bondoc, and their eldest son Onemig, the Benedictine International School (BISQC) in Capitol Hills Drive, Diliman, Quezon City, molds young minds with a balance of quality academics, relevant skills, and Catholic values. Pre-school and elementary classes adapt the integrated Montessori curriculum—that is, child-centered learning using research-based educational materials and teachers who function as guides. Meanwhile, the high school's expanded traditional curriculum means that teens will be studying computer programming, Humanities, Asian and European Languages, and environmental studies in addition to their more familiar subjects. A total of 175 coeds attend classes in BISQC's air-conditioned rooms and first-class facilities.



The young and the restless: Former truant student Onemig with his wards at BISQC

Forced to leave La Salle for flunking three subjects in high school, actor Onemig Bondoc never imagined himself in his latest role: as spokesperson for the Filipino youth

Although BISQC's open enrollment has drawn its fair share of punks, troublemakers will have to think twice before they pull any stunts in this school. Twenty students, many of them from prominent families, were let go in BISQC's first year of operations. But staying in this campus appears just as easy as getting kicked out: partial and full scholarships are awarded to those who excel academically as well as in sports.

As a member of BISQC's board, the boyish, 24-year-old actor is more than just an on-campus ornament. "They're already used to seeing me here," shrugs Onemig when asked if his presence causes a stir among star-struck faculty and students. "They don't see me as an actor or a teacher. To them, I'm just a buddy. *Minsan na-aalaska din ako ng mga estudyante, pero bata pa yung mga yon kaya mahilig pa sila sa kalokohan. Tsaka, galing din ako doon so naiintindihan ko sila.* (I also get my share of teasing from the students but they're young so I don't mind). But they do listen whenever I talk."

Thus far, Onemig's contributions have been small yet significant. Academically, he's suggested that tests be designed for each and every student "so there's no chance to cheat." And his love for basketball gave the school its initial claim to fame. Sensing potential among the seniors, he hired an experienced coach to whip the team into shape. The players would eventually surprise everyone, including themselves, when they became overall champs in last February's North Ball League. Today, the BISQC basketball team is helping train another school for an important game in Japan.

"Everyone underestimated us because we're new," reports Onemig with a smile. "But I think our team has a lot of heart and a desire to win. That's why I always tell them never to allow anyone to put them down. Even if you're unknown, you have to show everyone that you're somebody and that your school has something to offer."

Pep talks are becoming frequent for him these days; in a strange twist of fate, the actor was chosen by the Department of Education (Dep Ed) to serve as its spokesperson. "I said, 'Why me? I flunked. *Nagloko ako*. I don't think I'm the right role model for you.'" But Dep Ed convinced the former juvenile delinquent that if anyone could lead wayward kids back to school it would be him. Nervous before a crowd of impressionable students at his first speaking engagement, the actor could do nothing in the onset but pray. "I said, 'God, if You really want me to do this, then I'll do it.'" The speech went on without a hitch and the Dep Ed spokesperson was promoted to Spokesperson for the Youth. "I guess they were looking for someone who's *masa*," observes Onemig, who just accepted another award, the Parangal Ng Bayan, alongside other celebrity achievers at the PICC. "Someone who can speak to kids at their own level."

As an actor, Onemig has been doing just that through roles that capture the struggle and coming-of-age experiences of the Pinoy youth. Fans first saw him in the landmark Gen Y TV show "TGIS"; several months ago, the actor appeared in the buddy flick "Trip." Restless from portraying one troubled teen after another, he lay low last year and focused on other family ventures. Recent reports have it that Onemig is ready for adult assignments, like a sexy movie opposite Assunta de Rossi. For now though, his attention is on a US *telesine* where he stars as an "*amboy*" in a difficult relationship with his mom (played by Aurora Salve). "I want to do different things, to explore my acting abilities," says the actor, who can be seen in the ABS-CBN series "Attagirl." "I want to be known as a versatile actor."

Interestingly, it was through show business that Onemig learned his greatest lessons. "Show business changed me a lot," he affirms. "You meet so many people and you're open to all kinds of temptation. So it's up to you to control yourself and decide when to say no. Even the intrigues made me a stronger, more mature person."

The actor, in fact, has changed so much he's even gone back to school. Enrolled under a CAP College Home Study Program, he's a first year Business Management student. Suddenly, studying sans a teacher or classroom has made this one-time truant wish he were part of a regular school again. "Yes, so I can meet new people! But my schedule can only permit this," he rues. "So I have to exercise a lot of discipline. (Education) is for your own good. *Kung wala kang natapos, walang papansin sa 'yo.*"

Looks like this Spokesperson for the Youth is taking his pep talks to heart. Has being in BISQC inspired the actor to follow in the footsteps of his *lola*, retired University of Santo Tomas Science professor and BISQC Chairman Emeritus Rosario Delfin vda de Bondoc? "Ah, no," he laughs. "I'm okay just giving speeches!" A forthcoming speech is about to take him full circle: Dep Ed has plans of having Onemig deliver a talk in La Salle Greenhills. "Finally," he chuckles, "I can go up to the assistant principal (who's now the principal) and say, 'Remember your problem student? Now he's the one giving the speech!'"